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MAY/JUNE 2012

Lancaster PA PRIDE 2012 Guide
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Primary Election Analysis: Deitz, McEntee to Face Republican Incumbents, Sims Bumps Dem Incumbent

THE PRIMARY VOTE IS IN

By Frank Pizzoli

Three openly-gay candidates achieved victory in the April 24 Primary Election.

Democratic candidates Chris Deitz and Kelly McEntee will face Republican incumbents in the Nov. 6 General Election for their bids to be seated in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Both ran without challengers from within their own party. Philadelphia's Brian Sims, a Democrat, bumped incumbent state Rep. Babette Josephs.

✖ 15TH SENATE

In the hotly contested 15th Senate seat vacated by longtime incumbent State Sen. Jeff Piccola, Republican John McNally will face Democrat Rob Teplitz in the Nov. 6 General Election.

Democratic political observers talk excitedly about taking back a Senate seat traditionally held by Republicans. Republican stalwarts whisper quietly that Piccola's role in the recent takeover of Harrisburg City may seriously dent fellow Republican McNally's chances of holding onto the city which under siege from all sides in a festering fiscal crisis. The district is in Dauphin and York counties.

✖ 103RD HOUSE

Patty Kim won the Democratic primary vote for the 103rd state House seat vacated by longtime incumbent Democrat Rep. Ron Buxton. He too along the campaign trail had been criticized for playing a silent role in protecting the city's interests as it faced takeover talk from various stakeholders.

Kim tallied 29% of the vote against a crowded field of four candidates. Coming in a close second was Roy Christ who branded himself an "urban redneck" during the campaign. Kim had received a nod in the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats Voter's Guide. Christ had received the endorsement of statewide Equality PA, an LGBT organization.

Following political tradition in a city-based district comprised of a majority of Democrats, there was no Republican candidate running for the seat until, at the last minute, Bill Cluck, active in the spirited Harrisburg fiscal crisis imbroglio, decided to wage a (write-in) campaign on the Republican side of the primary ledger to have his name placed on the ballot.

Last minute political machinations prompted Gloria Martin-Roberts, herself a Democratic candidate for the seat against Kim who received 19% of the vote, to also conduct a write in attempt on the Republican side. At press time, a final tally of Republican (write-in) votes for Cluck or Martin-Roberts had not been officially announced by election officials. Three hundred or more (write-in) votes are needed to secure a place on the ballot. The district is located in Dauphin County.

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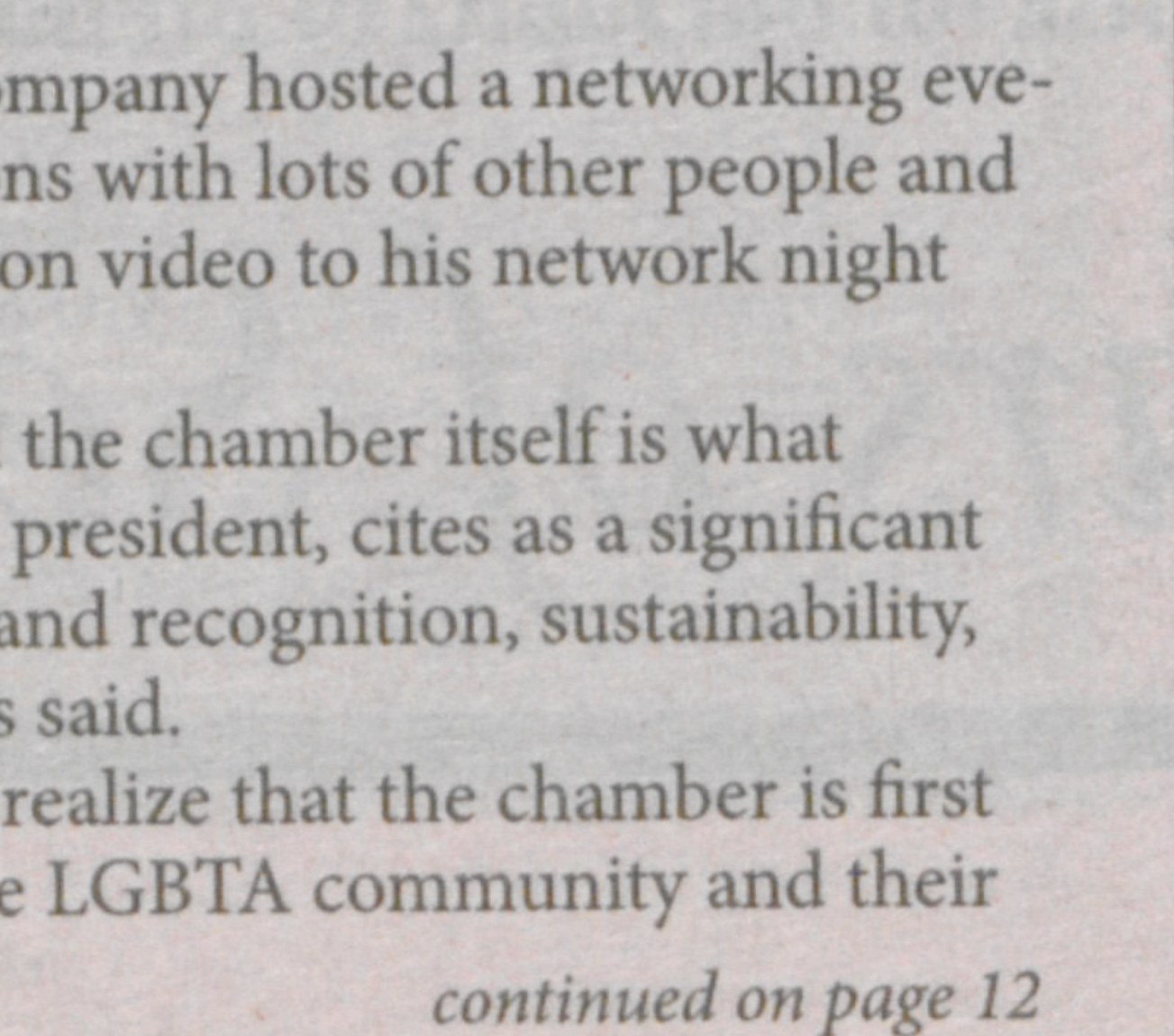
New Leadership at Helm

Chamber Aims to Strengthen Brand



By Frank Pizzoli

"We joined the lgbt chamber of commerce for the same reason you join any similar organization. There might be business there," business owner Derek Lau, not a member of the lgbt community, tells *Central Voice*.

Lau's business is AideM Media, Lancaster. His company hosted a networking evening in March. "It's been useful. We've made connections with lots of other people and businesses," he says. His company produced an invitation video to his network night and posted it on the chamber's web site.

That kind of brand recognition for members and the chamber itself is what Russ Boggs, now treasurer and founding five-year past president, cites as a significant achievement in the organization's first half decade. "Brand recognition, sustainability, and validation" are established and will continue Boggs said.

"I think that it is important that business people realize that the chamber is first a business organization, but that we have a focus on the LGBTA community and their

continued on page 12

GAY HISTORY

She was black.
She was a lesbian.
And this was the 1800s.

See page 36

STAND UP and BE COUNTED!

Take part in the first local lgbt survey of its kind

See page 16

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Political Update

By Frank Pizzoli

East Pennsboro Area School Board Approves GSA

East Pennsboro Area School Board by a 7-0 vote has approved formation of a club for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. In an earlier vote, the school board voted down the request by a tie 4-4 vote. The goal of the club is to provide a safe environment and did not include a request for funds.

Responding to the denial, Louie Marven, executive director of the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA told Central Voice "the school board's decision to not allow a gay-straight alliance student club to form in the high school has many in our community talking about students' legal rights. I will be frank: a GSA will form at East Pennsboro Area High School."

"So long as students go about the process of forming this club as it is dictated in the district's policy, the board must allow the GSA to form." He also noted that in August 2011, the school administration used the center's educational services by inviting him to an in-service day for staff to present on "Creating a Safe Space for LGBTQ Students."

Casey on Board with Fed Benefit Bill

U.S. Senator Robert Casey (D-Pa.) and 21 other lawmakers have signed on to a bill mandating the availability of domestic-partner benefits for the same-sex partners of federal employees. The measure is known as the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act. Sens. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) introduced the measure. Casey also co-sponsored the legislation in previous Congressiuonal sessions. The bill calls for extension of health and life insurance, long-term care benefits, pensions and other benefits to same-sex partners who live in a committed relationship with a federal employee.This round supporters include American Civil Liberties Union, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Log Cabin Republicans, People for the American Way, Service Employees International Union.

"Let's see how much he actually pressures for the legislation. My impression is Bob Casey likes gay money but doesn't much like actually applying pressure after the checks are cashed," one political insider said, asking to remain anonymous.

Equality PA & Mrs. PA Make Video

Please watch the video at thecentralvoice.ning.com

Mrs. Pennsylvania 2011, Kate Mack, has partnered with Equality Pennsylvania to record a video to tell Pennsylvania's LGBT youth that "It Gets Better."

In the video, Mack urges LGBT youth to join their school's GSA (or to start one). Mack also directs viewers to take action with Equality Pennsylvania in support of anti-bullying and non discrimination legislation in order to help "make it better" for all LGBT Pennsylvanians.

American Taliban Strikes Again

Vicki Kennedy

The Roman Catholic Church has been successful at having Catholic Bishop Robert McManus force Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts to cancel a commencement speech by Vicki Kennedy the widow of Senator Edward Kennedy because of political views. Kennedy's statement: "I have not met Bishop McManus, nor has he been willing to meet with me to discuss his objections. He has not consulted with my pastor to learn more about me or my faith," read the statement. "Yet by objecting to my appearance at Anna Maria College he has made a judgment about my worthiness as a Catholic. This is a sad day for me and an even sadder one for the Church I love."

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats Host Candidates

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats hosted candidates for all levels of elected office in recent months.

The organization has listed online 2012 Endorsement Surveys filled out by prospective candidates running for seats in the US Congress, statewide Pennsylvania races, and Pennsylvania General Assembly seats in the April 24 Primary Election.

CRSD is a political action committee, an organized group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens and straight allies in the state's Capital Region, including Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, and nearby communities. The mission is to advocate equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Info: http://www.capitalstonewall.org

No Obama Marriage Endorsement before Election

Houston Mayor Annise Parker recently said she does not expect President Barack Obama to publicly endorse marriage equality before the general election. "I would be shocked to see it," she said. "I would not expect to see it." Parker co-chairs a coalition of nearly 200 mayors who back nuptials for gays and lesbians. She stressed that the economy remains the dominant campaign issue. On marriage, Parker said,"I would expect that his advisors tell him he doesn't need to go down that path."

Getting' Out of Line

Key West, FL realtors Rudy Molinet and Harry Hoehn filled out a joint Customs declaration form to use to re-enter the country after their vacation on the French Riviera last fall. The couple who has been together for 19 years and married in Canada in 2003 presented the document to a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston.

"He basically ordered me back into line and said you know you're not a couple; we don't recognize you," recalled Molinet "I just refused to do it."

Molinet reports that the armed customs agent was "rude" and "really aggressive" towards him. He said he remained calm. "I am an American citizen, that's what my passport says," said Molinet, further recalling the incident. "I have the constitution behind me and I am not going to [go back into line.] So either you're going to have to arrest me or let me through. Those are your two choices."

Current policy allows members of a family who are related through blood, marriage or adoption and live together in the same household to file a single Customs declaration form. A proposal that the agency and the Departments of Homeland Security and Treasury is slated to unveil on Tuesday would expand the definition of "members of a family living in one household" to include long-term companions, domestic partners, same-sex couples and those in other relationships where "the partners share financial assets and obligations, and are not married to, or a partner of, anyone else."

A Customs spokesperson declined to comment on the specific proposal, but LGBT activists quickly applauded it.

Alder Health Services Takes Nonprofit Innovation Award

Alder Health Services recently announced president and CEO, Philip K. Goropoulos, won a Nonprofit Innovation Award for his impact on the organization he has led since 1999.

Says Megan Dapp, a board member for Alder Health, "Phil is an inspiring individual, who is not fearful of change or lofty goals. He truly believes he can make an impact on that world and that is infectious. Many people think about what they want to do or should do; Phil simply goes and makes it happen. Phil wastes no time dwelling on the obstacles; instead, he formulates a plan to overcome them."

In addition to the prestige of being named the winner, Alder Health Services received $1,000 in prize money.

Founded as one of the original AIDS Service Organizations in Pennsylvania, Alder Health Services has evolved to address the growing health needs of a 14-county area in South Central Pennsylvania. The Agency's programs and services are dedicated to improving the health of populations that have traditionally been marginalized by the mainstream healthcare system including individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and individuals who struggle with addiction. Alder Health Services envisions a world where quality health care services and education are available and affordable for every member of the community.

Alder Health Services provides a medical home where patients are treated with the highest level of respect. Our practitioners recognize that good health requires a strong partnership between the patient and the medical provider. We work to establish strong and honest relationships that are focused on helping patients make health choices that are right for them. All HIV-related services are provided at no-cost to the participant. Primary medical care and mental health counseling services are available on a sliding fee scale. While many insurance plans are accepted, insurance is not necessary to access the services of Alder Health.

Created 13 years ago to call attention to the overwhelming importance of nonprofits to the local economy, from the large number of jobs they provide to the value of their services, the Nonprofit Innovation Awards are a partnership of the Central Penn Business Journal, regional community foundations and area businesses.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

publisher's note

Falling on a Political Sword

Frank Pizzoli

"A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it," said Oscar Wilde.

Then again it might be.

One must figure that court-appointed Harrisburg Receiver David Unkovic felt so strongly that his efforts would be for naught, he framed his handwritten resignation, and court testimony a few days earlier, in the language of corruption. Did too many political crosswinds blow the boat over for a slow sinking?

Speaking of his "handwritten" resignation, was it prepared by him because after lighting the fuse by daring to say political and business interests – presumably those same business interests who routinely argue that less government is better, unless of course, it's in their behalf - that he was "walked" to the door? Left with only his stationary, he hand wrote his resignation?

Harrisburg is a ship at sea with Titanic injuries. Residents are saddled with the highest per capita debt in the nation – that's $6,340 for every person living within city limits. A huge number of residents live at or below the poverty level, about one quarter to one third.

I'm thinking the Titanic had a better chance. At least the rig had life boats. Our capital city has few. And the remaining lifeboats – assets like parking, water and sewage - residents do have left are up for grabs in a fire sale.

And now that city interests and Harrisburg School District's fiscal nightmare of about one half billion in debt are steering toward a head-on collision at the intersection of reality, no amount of safety features can protect citizens from serious injury.

We're all in for a head-on collision of epic proportions. The ripple effect will hurt not only school students, residents, and commuters – even those who regularly whine they are immune from participating in any solution because they drive here five days a week and may or may not spend money. As if what they may, or may not, spend equals the wear and tear on city resources. Sound kind of Tea Partyish? Like telling the government to keep their hands off Medicare?

At any rate, seems to me the worst is yet to come.

voice box

RELIGION & SCIENCE

Came across this and wanted to share with readers:

> Science flew us to the moon.
> Religion flew us into a building.

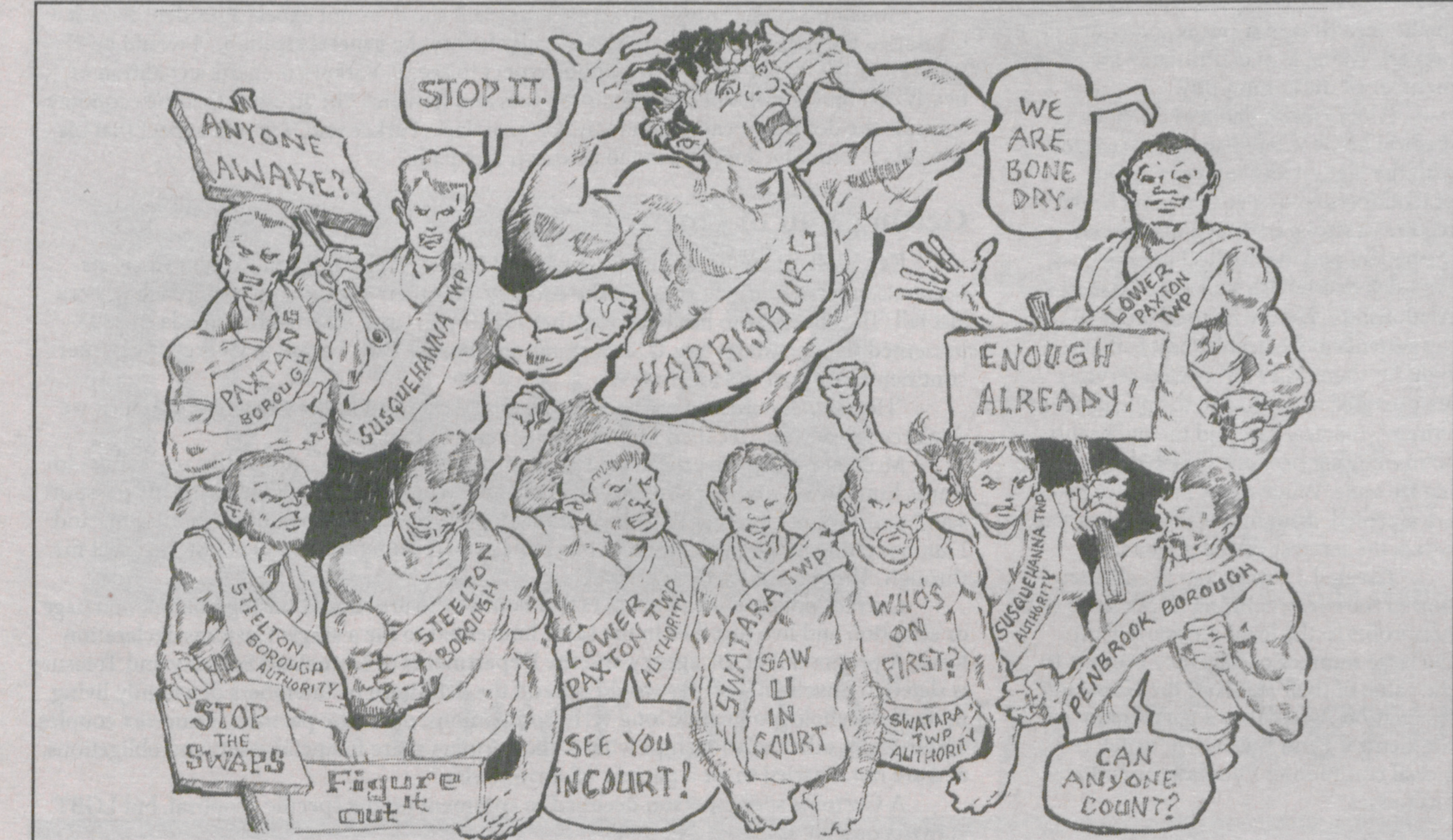
Reader

"MEN WITH BREASTS?"

PA State Rep. Babette Josephs, D-Philadelphia, frustrated with her female cosponsors of the controversial Ultrasound Bill re abortion, recently asked a rally crowd, "What are they? Women, or are they men with breasts?" according to media reports. Among other things, the bill requires women to complete an ultrasound at least 24 hours before an abortion.

Reader

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com



Government-run Golf a Taxpayer Double Bogey

By John Bouder
Commonwealth Foundation

As the current economic stagnation sees cities and counties struggling to maintain basic services, what are some local governments still pouring money into? Golf courses, of course - with Pennsylvania taxpayers constantly chipping in and plenty teed off.

Believe it or not, local governments, i.e., taxpayers, own 49 golf courses in Pennsylvania.

One of the poorest performers is Dauphin Highlands Golf Course, owned by Dauphin County taxpayers, which simply doesn't make enough money to cover the interest on its debt. For years, county taxpayers there have been caddying for the course's bills to the tune of more than $3 million. The golf course is for sale, but because its $11 million debt load exceeds its market value it has become a sand trap the county cannot escape.

Unfortunately, Dauphin County's golfing misadventures are becoming par for the course.

Sadly, the handicap is no better in Middle Smithfield Township where officials are facing a major loss on the Country Club of the Poconos, costing local taxpayers nearly $1 million from 2010-11. While true that not all municipal courses are failing so dramatically, few have proven to be the money makers local officials promised.

Naturally, if private golf courses fly into a fiscal bunker, their only recourses would be to close down, adapt or change management. Not so with government-run courses as they can always go to taxpayers for a subsidized sand wedge. But with families struggling to make ends meet and local government looking at tax increases or

continued on page 33

springtime for harrisburg *By Alan Kennedy-Shaffer*

Harrisburg HOPE

The resignation of receiver David Unkovic on March 31st was a major setback to the city's recovery process.

* * *

Meanwhile, the incinerator debt continues to climb, with millions in interest accumulating annually.

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer
Central Voice photo

"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark," Marcellus famously observed in "Hamlet." William Shakespeare's political commentary is as timeless as it is haunting. In Shakespeare's tale, Political leaders shake hands, smile for the cameras, kiss babies, and then act out of spite when few are watching. Women and men of high ideals are condemned for telling the truth. Harrisburg is no exception.

The resignation of receiver David Unkovic on March 31st was a major setback to the city's recovery process. Unkovic was listening to the community. A rare, honest broker, Unkovic won over many residents who were cynical and wary of him. He won us over by being honest and earnestly seeking citizen input. He was willing to meet with residents, community groups and elected officials in order to bring people together - something Harrisburg desperately needs.

The first receiver in city history was also asking tough questions, and he was starting to get answers. Influenced by the unfinished forensic audit of the incinerator debt, Unkovic began naming names - elected officials, legislators, lobbyists. He expressed his frustration at the "corruption" behind what he called a "house of cards." Then a judge ruled that a second receiver was needed. After Unkovic resigned, the prospect of bankruptcy became much greater.

It is now also going to be more difficult to fully investigate the causes of the debt crisis. In one of his last acts, Unkovic wrote to the United States Attorney and the Pennsylvania Attorney General to request that they investigate the questionable bond deals described in the forensic audit. It is high time for a full investigation to begin. City residents, officials, and business owners are waiting for accountability - criminal or civil - for Harrisburg's "house of cards."

Meanwhile, the incinerator debt continues to climb, with millions in interest accumulating annually. With the current debt topping $317,000,000, and only fifty thousand residents in the city, Harrisburg has the highest debt per person of any municipality in the country ($6,340 per person). Only the national debt per person -- $49,879.47 -- is higher. With limited assets, and a commuter tax and county sales tax off the table, Harrisburg has few options left. That is why bankruptcy is on the table.

The good news is that Harrisburg can recover, but only if residents, community groups, elected officials, and the city's creditors rise to the occasion. The even better news is that there is a growing realization that Harrisburg does not rise and fall alone. As the capital city of the nation's sixth largest state, and as the county seat, Harrisburg is the economic and political hub for a region with more than half a million people. So goes Harrisburg, so goes the region.

There is a regional spring taking root here -- an awakening of not just city residents, but also those who live near the city, work in the city, and share in the collective offerings of the regional metropolis. An ironic sign of this awakening is a lawsuit filed in late February by the self-titled "Suburban Municipalities" of Lower Paxton Township and Authority, Steelton Borough and Authority, Susquehanna Township and Authority, Swatara Township and Authority, Paxtang Borough, and Pennbrook Borough. The municipalities argue Unkovic's plan unlawfully forces them to support city operations through sewage fees, rather than funding only sewage services.

For the first time, the "Suburban Municipalities" teamed up to oppose the "direct, adverse and immediate impacts" of a recovery plan "wholly inadequate to alleviate the fiscal emergency of the City of Harrisburg." Significantly, they recognized that the city's problems are also theirs. Although city, township and borough officials often like to view their jurisdictions as entities unto themselves, it is becoming increasingly evident that Harrisburg's incinerator debt crisis is so monumental that it has already begun to affect the townships and boroughs that ring the city. Even after the incinerator debt is erased, Harrisburg is likely to face structural deficits that will likely tempt city officials to again rob Peter to pay Paul so that essential services can continue.

Given the extent of Harrisburg's financial "house of cards," the sticker price of the incinerator debt, and the difficult task of finding new revenue sources for Harrisburg, there is no better time for the city and its municipal neighbors to act with civility toward each other. Regional challenges require regional solutions. Fortunately, the first step toward finding creative solutions is taking hold: The region's municipalities are talking about the complexities of regionalization.

Harrisburg Hope remains committed to encouraging civility and empowering our community to ask the tough questions. We are not giving up, and neither should you. Getting Harrisburg out of debt is going to take concessions from creditors, sacrifices from residents, and a regional willingness to come together. There may be something rotten in Harrisburg, but there are also those willing to tell the truth. Right now, more than ever, Harrisburg needs all hands on deck.

letters to the editor

2 Corrections

From the Editor:

Thank you to reader Andrew who points out that the 1948 Democratic Convention took place in Philadelphia, not Atlantic City as I wrote in my column last issue (March-April2012). My father, who was an elected delegate to the convention, stayed in Atlantic City with other Pa. delegates so their colleagues from far away could have the better rooms. The topic was "civility" and that was my example.

In our "Cheltenham Twp. Passes Non-discrimination Law" we mistakenly wrote that "the state's three largest cities – Altoona, Wilkes-Barre, and Williamsport – do not" have an anti-discrimination ordinance. Those three cities are not the three largest cities in the state but the three largest cities in the state without such a protective law. The three largest cities in the state are Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown, respectively.

Great questions

Your Prince Poppycock interview (March-April 2012) was very interesting. This guy is really deep. I just love that your article went so far beyond the usual recap of an entertainer's career and chatter about what they got going on now and what's next. Surely a result of the great questions you asked. Love it.

Reader

Fantastic Warhola

Fantastic article, Frank it was a pleasure to see you again along with my friends, the Warhola family, at this exhibition. I truly have been Warholized in all true sense of the expression.

Kary Maurice

Phila. Event

This is a good article about Warholized in Da Vinci Art Alliance. I am proud to be participant of exhibition and panel discussion. Thanks for all who prepared this very important event.

Emina Beho

Anti-gay Group Hopes to Divide

"The strategic goal… is to drive a wedge between gays and blacks," read one document titled "NOM Deposition Exhibit 25: National Organization for Marriage Board Update 2008-2009" that the Human Rights Campaign and Jeremy Hooper of Good As You recently circulated.

Maine court officials in Late March unveiled previously confidential memoranda that NOM filed in 2009 as part of their challenge of the Pine Tree State's financial disclosure laws. "Find, equip, energize and connect African American spokespeople for marriage; develop a media campaign around their objections to gay marriage as a civil right; provoke the gay marriage base into responding by denouncing these spokesmen and women as bigots," the document stated.

A second document highlighted NOM's efforts to rally Latinos to oppose marriage for gays and lesbians. "The Latino vote in America is a key swing vote, and will be so even more so in the future, both because of demographic growth and inherent uncertainty: Will the process of assimilation to the dominant Anglo culture lead Hispanics to abandon traditional family values?," stated the memo. "We must interrupt this process of assimilation by making support for marriage a key badge of Latino identity – a symbol of resistance to inappropriate assimilation."

Former NAACP Chair Julian Bond used the phrase "filthy hand" to categorize the documents in an interview with The Hill. Minister Leslie Watson Malachi, director of the African American Ministers Leadership Council at People for the American Way, issued a statement on behalf of the AAMLC's Equal Justice Task Force.

"African American men and women of faith are not a political football to be tossed around in a cynical game of resentment and division," she said. "We, like all Americans, struggle thoughtfully with issues of faith, family and politics. Anti-equality activists such as NOM consistently attempt to use a deeply cynical 'wedge' strategy to divide African Americans and the gay community, playing up what are now old and tired clichés. In the long run, this strategy will falter as African American and LGBT communities continue to work together for equal justice."

Maryland Bishop Harry Jackson and New York State Sen. Ruben Diaz, Sr., are among the prominent blacks and Latinos who oppose marriage for gays and lesbians. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Tacoma, Wash., Mayor Marilyn Strickland are among Latinos and black officials, however, who back nuptials for same-sex couples.

Brewing at the same time was a proposed economic boycott of Starbucks by NOM in retaliation for their pro-gay policies. Called a "non-starter" by boycott opponents, an online registry polled 375,741 people as having said they will even support Starbucks more with 22,000 supporting NOM.

> *"When voters head to the polls this year, they should know how their legislators handled the Marcellus Shale, the biggest environmental issue facing Pennsylvania. Combined, we expect our organizations will distribute this scorecard to more than a quarter million Pennsylvania citizens and give every voter online access to this data"*
>
> *Josh McNeil of Conservation Voters of PA*

Environmental Groups Release Legislators' Marcellus Scorecard

Four of Pennsylvania's largest citizen-based environmental organizations released their joint "Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale Scorecard" recently, giving each state senator and representative an environmental grade based on their votes related to Act 13, the omnibus Marcellus Shale legislation signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett Feb. 14.

Between November, 2011 and February, 2012, the Pennsylvania state legislature held a series of votes on HB 1950 (Act 13), a bill that overturned local ordinances on gas drilling, establishes one of the nation's lowest gas extraction fees, and makes only minimal improvements to environmental and public health protections from oil and gas drilling. Passage of Act 13 is the first significant legislation enacted in Pennsylvania since the Marcellus Shale gas drilling boom began over four years ago. The Marcellus Scorecard provides Pennsylvania's residents with information on how their legislators voted on this law which will have far reaching impacts on all Pennsylvanians. The Scorecard covers final passage votes as well as votes on floor amendments to the bill.

> **"We are glad to see that we have some environmental heroes in the state legislature who stood up to protect our water, our air, and our neighborhoods from gas drilling. Unfortunately, far too many legislators earned failing grades in this Scorecard."**
>
> ***Jeff Schmidt, Director for the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.***

"When voters head to the polls this year, they should know how their legislators handled the Marcellus Shale, the biggest environmental issue facing Pennsylvania. Combined, we expect our organizations will distribute this scorecard to more than a quarter million Pennsylvania citizens and give every voter online access to this data," stated Josh McNeil of Conservation Voters of PA.

"We are glad to see that we have some environmental heroes in the state legislature who stood up to protect our water, our air, and our neighborhoods from gas drilling. Unfortunately, far too many legislators earned failing grades in this Scorecard," stated Jeff Schmidt, Director for the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.

42 State Representatives and 14 State Senators earned perfect 100% scores, including:

- Senate Minority Leader Senator Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)
- Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Minority Chair Senator John Yudichak (D-Luzerne)
- Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee members Senator Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery) and Senator Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester)
- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee members Rep. Scott Conklin (D-Centre), Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), Rep. Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks), Rep. Eugene DePasquale (D-York), Rep. Bryan Barbin (D-Cambria)
- Minority Caucus Chair Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny)

Legislators scoring below 50% include:

- Senators Charles McIlhinney (R-Bucks), Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery), Richard Alloway (R-Franklin), Edwin Erickson (R-Delaware), and Bob Mensch (R-Montgomery), each of whom signed a letter to the Governor opposing HB 1950 and vowing to protect municipal rights only days before voting in favor of the bill.
- Senator John Wozniak (D-Cambria), Senator Tim Solobay (D-Washington), and Rep. Peter Daley (D-Washington), who represented the lowest scores among Democrats
- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee members Rick Saccone (R-Allegheny), Randy Vulakovich (R-Allegheny), and Martin Causer (R-McKean)
- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Majority Chair Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango)
- House Speaker Rep. Sam Smith (R-Punxsutawney)
- Majority Leader Rep. Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)

"It should have raised red flags for the Pennsylvania legislature when they voted for a bill supported by the industry that had a financially vested interest in the outcome, yet was opposed by environmental, public health and sportsmen's groups, and local government officials from both parties and every corner of the Commonwealth," stated David Masur, Director for PennEnvironment.

"It's disappointing to see that protecting the public and the environment no longer gets bi-partisan support. While there are members of both parties that had low scores, there were no Republican members who earned a passing grade. One of the main reasons that Act 13 passed was that Republican members who used to support environmental protections chose to side with Governor Corbett and the gas industry," stated Myron Arnowitt, PA State Director for Clean Water Action.

Democratic members of the state legislature earned scores ranging from 0% to 100%. Democrats earning a failing score under 63% included: Sen. Wozniak (Cambria), Sen. Solobay (Washington), Sen. Brewster (Allegheny), Rep. Daley (Washington), Rep. Gergley (Allegheny), Rep. Gibbons (Beaver), Rep. Mullery (Luzerne), Rep. Wheatley (Allegheny).

However, the highest Republican score was only 54%. This is in stark contrast to Scorecards put out in past years by these environmental groups where numerous Republican legislators earned scores of 90-100%.

The Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale Scorecard is available on the websites of all four organizations.

War on Women?

Rep. Frankel Warns of Attack on Women's Rights

State Rep. Dan Frankel last month denounced what he calls the newest attack on women's rights in Pennsylvania. He's referring to a bill that would ban Planned Parenthood and prevent many other family planning clinics statewide from receiving any family planning funding, funding for cervical cancer and breast cancer screening or money to test for sexually transmitted infections that is distributed by the state Department of Health.

"Enough is enough. Most people understand that women need health care, that family planning is part of health care and that funding for family planning and women's health goes for just that - birth control and cancer screening, not abortions. Planned Parenthood and family planning clinics are the main, and sometimes only, provider of health care for many low-income or uninsured women," Frankel said.

The controversial measure had been introduced by state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe and is named Whole Woman's Health Funding Priority Act.

Betsy Buckingham, Planned Parenthood of Central PA, tells Central Voice that "funding for family planning saves lives and efforts to eliminate it are politically motivated." She says that more than 95% of Planned Parenthood services are preventive."

Commenting on Pennsylvania's recently passed "ultra sound law" Frankel said women don't want "to be forced to 'close their eyes' to a mandatory ultrasound before receiving a legal medical procedure, and they understand that having birth control covered in health insurance policies protects couples and actually saves money for everyone. The war on women must stop."

A recent poll, conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research on behalf of the organization, found that 65 percent oppose eliminating state funding for Planned Parenthood, including a majority of respondents in every region of the state and among Republicans, Democrats and independents.

Public Schools Can Do More with Less - If We Let Them

By Thomas J. Gentzel and Matthew J. Brouillette
Commonwealth Foundation

Thomas Gentzel

Matthew Brouillette

As families across Pennsylvania try to figure out how to do more with less in this difficult economy, our local public schools must also do the same. But unlike fiscally sound kitchen-table decisions that can be made in the morning and implemented by lunch, elected school board members are forced to waste taxpayer money because of antiquated and unfair mandates from Harrisburg that do nothing to improve the quality of public education.

Although the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Commonwealth Foundation are policy opponents in the debate over school choice, we strongly agree on the need to give elected school boards the ability to better manage their taxpayer resources.

Public school boards are responsible for large budgets; however, the hands of these boards are often tied because state law restricts them from managing taxpayer dollars effectively and efficiently. Mandates have a pervasive impact on school operations. Some are reasonable, many are not.

Take, for example, Pennsylvania's 50-year-old "prevailing wage" law, which forces school districts and every other state government entity to pay inflated wages on construction projects costing greater than $25,000. The "prevailing wage," established in 1961 at double the cost of the average home, is not the local market rate for a carpenter, plumber or electrician, but the inflated wage rates established in labor union collective bargaining agreements. On average, the prevailing wage is much higher than regular Pennsylvania construction wages for identical work on private projects.

Sadly, this isn't just theory or rhetoric as the taxpayers in York County's South Western School District recently found out. When school roof repairs were needed, the initial contractor proposal came in at $84,504. However, since the total cost of the project exceeded the $25,000 threshold, the contractor was forced to revise the plan using prevailing wages.

The result? The total cost of the project increased from $84,504 to $126,825, an increase of 50 percent, for exactly the same product with the same skilled workers. The only difference is that the taxpayers in South Western School District got a $42,321 higher bill for absolutely no improvement in quality.

Another example of tax-wasting mandates from Harrisburg is the inability of school districts to make personnel decisions. Unlike private businesses and every other government entity, school districts are not permitted to reduce the size of their professional staff except under very limited circumstances. Believe it or not, the inability to pay is not one of the reasons school boards are permitted to furlough employees.

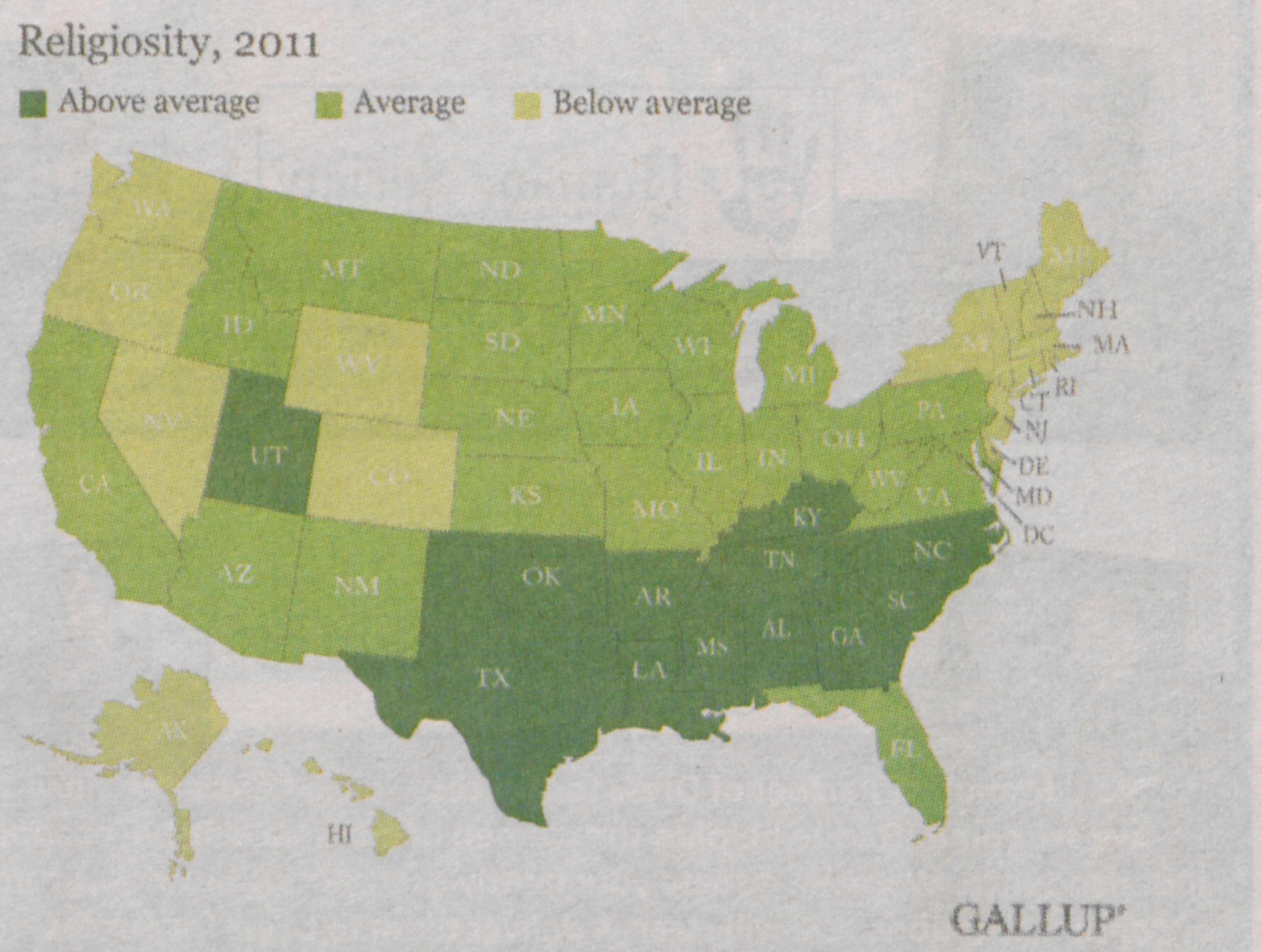
No school board or administration enjoys cutting staff, but the grim reality today is that with scarce resources, many districts must downsize their operations. Enacting legislation permitting furloughs for economic reasons should therefore be a high priority this spring for Gov. Tom Corbett and the General Assembly.

However, how this should happen, as are so many other public policy matters, is just as important as why. If a school district is forced to eliminate teaching positions, it is important for the school leadership team to be able to decide which positions to retain. Some argue the decision should be solely on the basis of seniority – that is, the last person hired should be the first person let go. We strongly disagree.

No private enterprise would accept such a provision or survive under it. If school staff must be reduced because the budget must be balanced, school boards must be able to make program and furlough decisions based on what's best for students.

Because public schools are being asked to do more with less money, Gov. Corbett and the General Assembly must give them the tools they need to meet the challenge. By repealing the outdated and expensive "prevailing wage" law and giving school boards the ability to make important personnel decisions, school district are justly enabled to use taxpayer money more wisely and empower the very best resources for our children's education.

Thomas J. Gentzel is executive director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (www.PSBA.org) and Matthew J. Brouillette is president and CEO of the Commonwealth Foundation (www.CommonwealthFoundation.org).



How Religious Are We?

With this election year dripping with religion almost every media cycle, Gallup has identified the "most religious" and the "least religious" states in the country. Forty percent of Americans consider themselves as very religious and 32% are nonreligious.

The most religious states list doesn't really contain many surprises. Mississippi Pentecostals beats out Utah Mormons for the top honors on that list.

The most interesting of the two lists is the nonreligious states. Who would have thought that Maine or Alaska would be on the list? Here are the top ten nonreligious states (the figure following each state is how many citizens in that state consider themselves "very religious"):

Pennsylvania is listed as "Average" within a three-point scale of Above, Below, or Average.

Very Religious

1. Vermont (23%)
2. New Hampshire (23%)
3. Maine (25%)
4. Massachusetts (28%)
5. Alaska (28%)
6. Oregon (30%)
7. Nevada (30%)
8. Washington (30%)
9. Connecticut (31%)
10. New York (tie: 32%)
10. Rhode Island (tie: 32%)

Pennsylvania's Fork in the Road on Transportation Spending

By Jonathan Humma & Nathan Benefield
Commonwealth Foundation

Motorists frustrated with high gas prices should be on the alert—your pain at the pump could get worse, and it has nothing to do with Middle East tensions or gas company profits.

Sadly, many in the transportation industry and some lawmakers in Pennsylvania believe the only way to fix our roads is to increase gasoline taxes and charge drivers more in vehicle fees. This low-octane loser is surely another wrong exit for taxpayers whose tank is already on empty.

To be certain, Pennsylvania's roads and bridges need repair. But before taking one more dollar from working men and women through higher prices at the gas pump, lawmakers must do a better job spending the billions in taxes and fees they already get.

Gov. Corbett's Transportation Funding Advisory Commission proposed uncapping the oil franchise tax—bumping up gas prices by an estimated 10 cents or more per gallon—while also increasing vehicle and license fees. Advocates for more transportation taxes and fees claim Pennsylvania, due to the lack of transportation funds, has the most structurally deficient bridges in the nation and some of the worst roads in the country.

While Pennsylvania's roads and bridges may indeed be poor, there is simply no shortage of transportation dollars. U.S. Census and Federal Highway Administration data shows Pennsylvania spends more than $61,000 per highway mile, the seventh-highest road spending in the country. State highway spending exceeds $588 per person, more than 41 other states. And, state transportation spending has risen by more than 127 percent since 1995. The

continued on page 13

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thinking out loud

By Abby Dees

> ***When I think of how people come to be enlightened about LGBT issues, I picture a staircase with manageable steps. I don't expect anyone to skip from floor to floor.***

Two Lesbians Abroad

What our guidebook didn't tell us about being out of the closet in Egypt

Nearly 3500 years ago, the female pharaoh, Hatshepsut, ruled Egypt. A powerful queen, she appears in temple carvings in a kind of ancient drag, with broad chest and false beard, and trappings more typical of a king. Historians say she did this only as a necessary political tactic. In her tomb, she was found alongside two other female mummies. No one knows who they were or why they were there.

While looking down at her beef-jerky-ish face in the mummy room of Cairo's Egyptian Museum, my partner and I listened as our guide recited this accepted account of Hatshepsut. It didn't ring true to us. Perhaps she was so butch because she liked it. If those reality show lesbians can go all James Dean, why not a pharaoh? And maybe those other women were in fact her lovers. The expanded possibilities seem to have occurred to no one.

Such was our introduction to Egypt this past December.

We try to travel to new places as often as we can, eager to discover other cultures and get a different perspective on our lives at home. Whether we're on a campy pilgrimage to Dollywood or off to where our phrase books offer no help for the correct pronunciation of "Hello," at some point we always have to decide exactly how _out _ we're prepared to be on our journey. I don't like doing it, but we'd be stupid not to. It is, first of all, a matter of safety in an unfamiliar culture. Second, it's important to know how alien you're willing to be in the eyes of others.

If you think this is merely internalized homophobia, I wouldn't automatically disagree with you. We traveled through Egypt, perpetually unclear about whether we were being respectful or just chicken by demoting ourselves to "roommates" – though sharing a king-sized bed. In most Muslim countries, homosexuality is forbidden. We were at an instant disadvantage, not knowing what this meant on a practical, daily basis, though I felt certain, as I do in most conservative places, that being gracious and not deliberately freaking out the camels is always a good baseline of conduct. But time after time, after we met kind, effusively welcoming Egyptians – this is always who you meet once you get away from the aggressive souvenir hawkers – and then said our goodbyes, we wondered if we had lost another opportunity to plant a seed of understanding in Egypt, just because we chose the closet.

While men walked freely arm-in-arm, talking passionately about everything, I knew from my guidebooks that this was never more than platonic. However accurate my guidebook is on this point, there were no signs of an LGBT community anywhere. (It is lovely, by the way, to see straight men warmly bonding like this, but that is a topic for another day.) Traditional expectations run so deep that when we told people that we had no children, they almost burst into tears of despair. I couldn't imagine adding, "Well, if the right sperm donor comes along…"

When I think of how people come to be enlightened about LGBT issues, I picture a staircase with manageable steps. I don't expect anyone to skip from floor to floor, but instead, I try to meet them where they are and help them spot where to go next. I reserve my Lesbian Avenger wrath only for people who should know better by now (see my column on Joel Osteen, for example).

In Egypt, though, we couldn't figure out where that next reachable step was. The culture is deep and inscrutable to a couple of tourist newbies, and perhaps – I'll concede – we were scared to look like freaks. It didn't seem at the time that _we_ might have been that next step and that all we had to do was exactly what we do at home: proceed openly with our lives, apologize for nothing, and be nice.

Meanwhile, LGBT Egyptians are still in danger, perpetuated by countless otherwise well-meaning people. Perhaps even some of the ones who were so welcoming to us. We didn't plant any new seeds there. Maybe next time, we'll suggest that Hatshepsut enjoyed ruling with a swagger. Who knows where that conversation could go.

DON'T ASK.
JUST
.ning **ME.**

AideM Hosts Chamber

"We joined the lgbt chamber of commerce for the same reason you join any similar organization. There might be business there," business owner Derek Lau, not a member of the lgbt community, tells *Central Voice*. Lau's business is AideM Media, Lancaster. His company hosted a networking evening in March. "It's been useful. We've made connections with lots of other people and businesses," he says.

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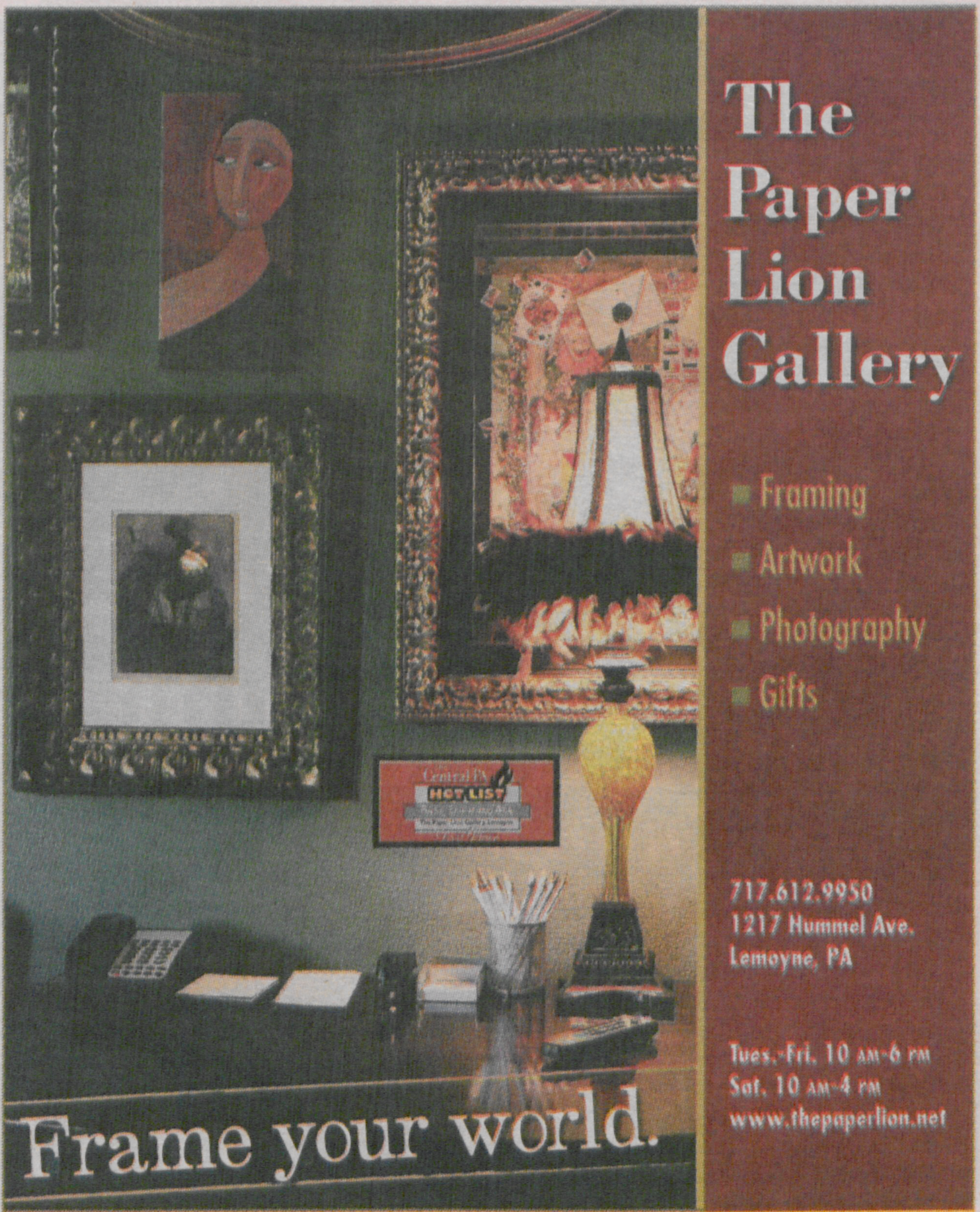
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Equality PA's Adrian Shanker Roasted by Political Leaders

Equality Pennsylvania's President, Adrian Shanker, center, who turned 25 in April, was officially roasted by 220 people, including dozens of elected officials, candidates, and community leaders. He has been officially "roasted" by Lehigh Valley political leaders. He has led successful campaigns to expand equality for the LGBT community in the cities of Allentown and Easton with Domestic Partner Benefits for city workers, in Bethlehem with a non-discrimination law, and in the Bangor and Northampton School Districts by fighting back illegal attempts to limit the rights of LGBT students. The Philadelphia Gay News named him and EQPA Executive Director, Ted Martin, People of the Year in January 2012. The roast featured comedian Ryan Hill, Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Easton City Councilperson Mike Fleck, and Lehigh County Democratic Party Chairperson Bar Johnston. *Photo/Stephanie Royer*

Faith Groups Celebrate Inclusion

Called "Celebrating Our Inclusivity and Acceptance," a gathering of faith communities March 25 gathered at Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit to celebrate inclusivity and acceptance through discussion, music, food, and networking. Panelists Hava Pell, Steve Dorko, Deb McClain, Alanna Berger, and Rev. Bob Stoudt discussed the lgbt community from the perspectives of financial challenges, politics, faith-based communities. The celebration included the reading of a "Proclamation of Affirmation," a list of open and affirming faith communities and was sponsored by LGBT Interfaith Coalition; a project of The Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania.

Groups include: Beth El Temple, Harrisburg; Black Forest Tradition of Wicca; Blue Mountain Lotus Society; Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley; Colonial Park United Church of Christ; HYMN – Helping Young Minds Now; Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania; LGBT Interfaith Coalition of Greater Harrisburg; Market Square Presbyterian Church; Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit; Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development; Penbrook United Church of Christ; Spiritual Outfitters; St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Harrisburg; St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Mechanicsburg; St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg; Temple Beth Shalom; Temple Ohev Sholom; The Faith Community of St. Joseph of the Old Catholic Church; The Religious Society of Friends, Harrisburg; Unitarian Church of Harrisburg; Unity Church of Harrisburg.

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Abington Township 28th Municipality to Adopt Non-discrimination Law

April 12 Abington Township, Montgomery County became the state's 28th municipality to adopt a non-discrimination policy regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

The measure's passage reflects an intense collaborative effort by LGBT members of the community, allied groups, and Equality Pennsylvania (EQPA).

> *"How Abington Township's non-discrimination ordinance came to be is a nearly identical story to what has happened in other communities we have worked with on this issue,"*
> *- Ted Martin*

Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens have no protection in state law against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations if it is based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

"With little action to change this sad fact being taken in Harrisburg, many communities have turned to EQPA for help in passing local ordinances to address this inequity," says EQPA Executive Director Ted Martin.

"How Abington Township's non-discrimination ordinance came to be is a nearly identical story to what has happened in other communities we have worked with on this issue," Martin explained.

An essential part of EQPA's work focuses on educating the public on the lives of the state's gay citizens. "When people - LGBT and allies alike - learn that it is still perfectly legal in Pennsylvania to fire someone for being gay or deny them a public accommodation like a hotel room or evict them from their apartment, they are generally pretty appalled," Martin said.

That's what happened in Abington Township. "Community members learned this information and they reached out to us for help to change it. They knew that we could provide resources and information, and with the General Assembly largely ignoring the issue, that our strategy to pass local ordinances was their best option to make real change for the better," Martin said.

Martin says his organization is "getting more calls on this subject than you can imagine." In the past two years, EQPA has helped to pass ordinances in Doylestown Borough; Lower Merion Township, Haverford Township; The City of Bethlehem; Springfield Township; Newtown Borough; Whitemarsh Township, Jenkintown Borough, Susquehanna Township.

"We are really just doing what state legislators have told us to do all along on non-discrimination," Martin commented. "Pass local ordinances and that will build grassroots pressure on us to act they say. So we have made passing ordinances a top priority."

Equality Pennsylvania President, Adrian Shanker, who led the effort to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in the City of Bethlehem in 2011, attributes the growing interest in ordinances to the public being out in front of their elected officials on this issue.

"The reality is that Pennsylvanians support basic non-discrimination laws that protect the LGBT community. Unfortunately, our state legislature is still shirking their responsibility to protect all their citizens from discrimination," Shanker noted.

In 2011 EQPA released polling showing strong statewide support for passing LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination legislation. The poll showed that by a more than 2:1 margin (or 69% to 24%), Pennsylvanians support passage of legislation banning discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression on matters dealing with the workplace, public housing and public accommodations; 6% of voters said they are undecided.

"The polling results show not only the basic fairness of Pennsylvanians, but their comfort with LGBT people having basic protections, and their consistency as well," Shanker says.

EPQA has released the third poll in a row they commissioned showing very strong support for this type of legislation. "In 2003, the results were 67% in favor, in 2007 it was 70% in favor and today the number is 69%. Not only have Pennsylvanians never wavered in their view that this discrimination is wrong, they have stayed fiercely loyal to that point. If public opinion was corporate brand loyalty, LGBT equality would be a Fortune 500. Knowing how people really feel on the subject empowers us to continue pressing our legislators about the need for a statewide law," Shanker said.

Equality Pennsylvania is the statewide voice for LGBT Equality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and works collaboratively to establish a comprehensive network of individuals and organizations united in securing equal rights for the LGBT community.

Info: www.equalitypa.org.

Central Voice Talks Green with Penn Future

By Frank Pizzoli

Jugovic

Central Voice recently asked Penn Future's new CEO George Jugovic, Jr. about the environmental landscape in the Keystone State. Jugovic was appointed upon the recent departure of Jan Jarrett, who served for 13 years.

Central Voice: What is the most environmentally threatening event or situation currently facing Pennsylvanians?

Jugovic: Pennsylvania has a significant number of special protection waters that need particular care in order to preserve the economic benefits of those waters for future generations. The air quality in Pennsylvania has improved over the years — but we are not yet a success story and increased pollution loading will challenge continued improvements. Our forests, parks, and game lands have special historical and ecological significance for Pennsylvanians. How can those valuable resources best be managed to ensure that they continue to pay dividends to future generations? These are the questions and the dialogue to which PennFuture and its members will contribute in the coming months and years.

CV: What is PennFuture's position on a possible Marcellus Shale pipeline that may stretch from Lycoming County south through the mid state region? As proposed, the 200-mile pipeline would run south to Baltimore and Washington markets.

GJ: The construction of infrastructure to bring Pennsylvania's natural gas resources to the marketplace, whether that be in Pennsylvania or Maryland, should be completed in a sustainable manner that minimizes impacts on the environment and public health. As with any major industrial project, PennFuture will ensure that the pipeline, if constructed, is done in full compliance with state and Federal environmental laws. We will also advocate that any such development not only meets the letter of the law, but that those responsible for the development go beyond the letter of the law and make every effort to avoid and minimize impacts to, for example, particularly sensitive ecosystems – such as high quality and exceptional value resources.

CV: Please summarize one or two specific examples of how in Pennsylvania "going green" has lead to economic development or revitalization of an industry or business.

GJ: There was a moratorium on land development in Mount Pocono because of a stream impairment caused by sewage discharges from a malfunctioning treatment plant. PennFuture sued the owner of the treatment plant for violating the terms of its discharge permit. PennFuture settled the case when the borough agreed to clean up the stream and enhance the stream's riparian buffer, which included a new footpath for area citizens. The result of the suit was to lift the moratorium on new development in the borough.

Sanofi Pasteur needed additional wastewater capacity to expand its operations. Pocono Township proposed building a new sewage treatment plant that would discharge to special protection waters to accommodate the company's needs. We appealed the permit and obtained a settlement that expanded and improved the discharge at an existing sewage treatment plant that discharges to non-special protection waters, which allowed Sanofi to grow.

PennFuture has successfully advocated for the siting of alternative energy facilities in Pennsylvania. This EPA factsheet details the economic benefits derived from siting alternative energy facilities in Bucks County, PA, on a land remediation site.

CV: What's the future hold?

GJ: There never seems to be a shortage of challenges that threaten our environment. To me the question remains the same question that has been asked since the Cuyahoga River caught fire — how do we gain a better understanding of the state of our environment and our relationship to it. Every activity will have some impact. The questions remain: What impacts are we willing to accept, what impacts can be minimized, and which are not acceptable? These are the broader questions that PennFuture and its members will be participating in answering in the coming months and years ahead.

In an effort to improve an understanding of what is contained in Act 13, Pennsylvania's new shale legislation, your readers may want to note that PennFuture will be publishing a plain language guide to Act 13 in the coming weeks. The guide is in its final editing, and will be presented in a question and answer format. The guide will be posted on our web site, which will also allow persons to ask questions that are not asked and answered in the guide.

Penn Future is a statewide public interest membership organization whose activities include litigating cases before regulatory bodies and in local, state, and federal courts; advocating and advancing legislative action on a state and federal level; public education; and assisting citizens in public advocacy. The organization works from the premise: "Every environmental victory grows the economy."

Chamber Aims to Strengthen Brand cont'd

special needs," Boggs said. Most major corporations and businesses already are onboard with this thinking reflected in the support they offer," he notes.

Boggs sees his role, besides treasurer, as "relationship building, expanding programs and services, and issue advocacy." On issues, Boggs says two immediate concerns are efforts on both state and federal levels to end discrimination, known as ENDA. How the chamber will do this will depend upon where each piece of legislation may be in public debate. "In the past, we have sent letters of support to the appropriate legislators," Boggs points out.

Continuing to develop brand, and other initiatives, shapes the outlook for the chamber's new team of leaders for 2012.

As current president, Debra McClain says one of her main goals is "to build our brand." McClain was honored last Women's History Month, along with 11 other women, by the PA Student Equality Coalition, for making life better for LGBT youth in the state.

She says that her conversations with the general public and LGBTA community tell her many "are still not aware that we exist." McClain is developing collaborations with other chambers to leverage success for long-term sustainability.

Is there a need for an LGBTA chamber? Vice president Seth Hamill says need increases daily.

"The LGBTA community is a large portion of the workforce and we deserve the same respect and ethical treatment as everyone should be afforded." For example, there is no protection in Pennsylvania and anyone can be fired simply for being gay.

"There is a need for education and diversity programs within business. The chamber provides these specific services," Hamill says. He sees the chamber becoming "a major resource for local businesses and organizations for employee services, diversity inclusion, educational programs, networking and business growth."

"Absolutely!" exclaims McClain about the need for an lgbt chamber.

"We raise awareness around advancing the ethical and moral case for the LGBTA community at large," McClain says. The chamber, McClain says, lets the public and gay people know "other LGBT organizations exist and are doing the work of none other like them in our region. She notes other advantages such as relying on the chamber to find a diversity-friendly employer or coming out at work issues. "We bring awareness to the discrimination that our community faces in our personal and professional lives that could so easily be overlooked by mainstream chambers."

McClain projects membership "will be positively impacted over the next several years as our brand gets stronger and people identify the local chamber as the 'go to' resource."

> *"We've made connections..."*
>
> *- Derek Lau, AideM Media*

For example, the chamber supports members with certification for Supplier Diversity Initiatives through the LGBT Business Enterprise Certification process. The program is in collaboration with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Successful certification places businesses on a national resource list used by corporations required to use certified minority owned businesses as vendors. "We have one member just certified and four more in the pipeline," McClain says.

Secretary Debra Gable sees the chamber as "focusing on strengthening our infrastructure" in order to put the chamber in a strong place for the future.

Gable has served as the education guru for several years, offering, planning workshops and seminars for chamber members. "We respond to requests for speakers and offer workshops to LGBTA youth programs, such as the GSA Leadership Summit, Common Roads, a program of the LGBT Community Center, and THE CURVE, a program of Planned Parenthood of Central PA," Gable says.

Gable believes that an LGBTA chamber is valuable and needed for similar reasons that other minority chambers exist. "It is a vital resource for LGBTA business people to support each other and to offer a clear presence that shows that providing inclusive workplaces and welcoming all people is good business," she says.

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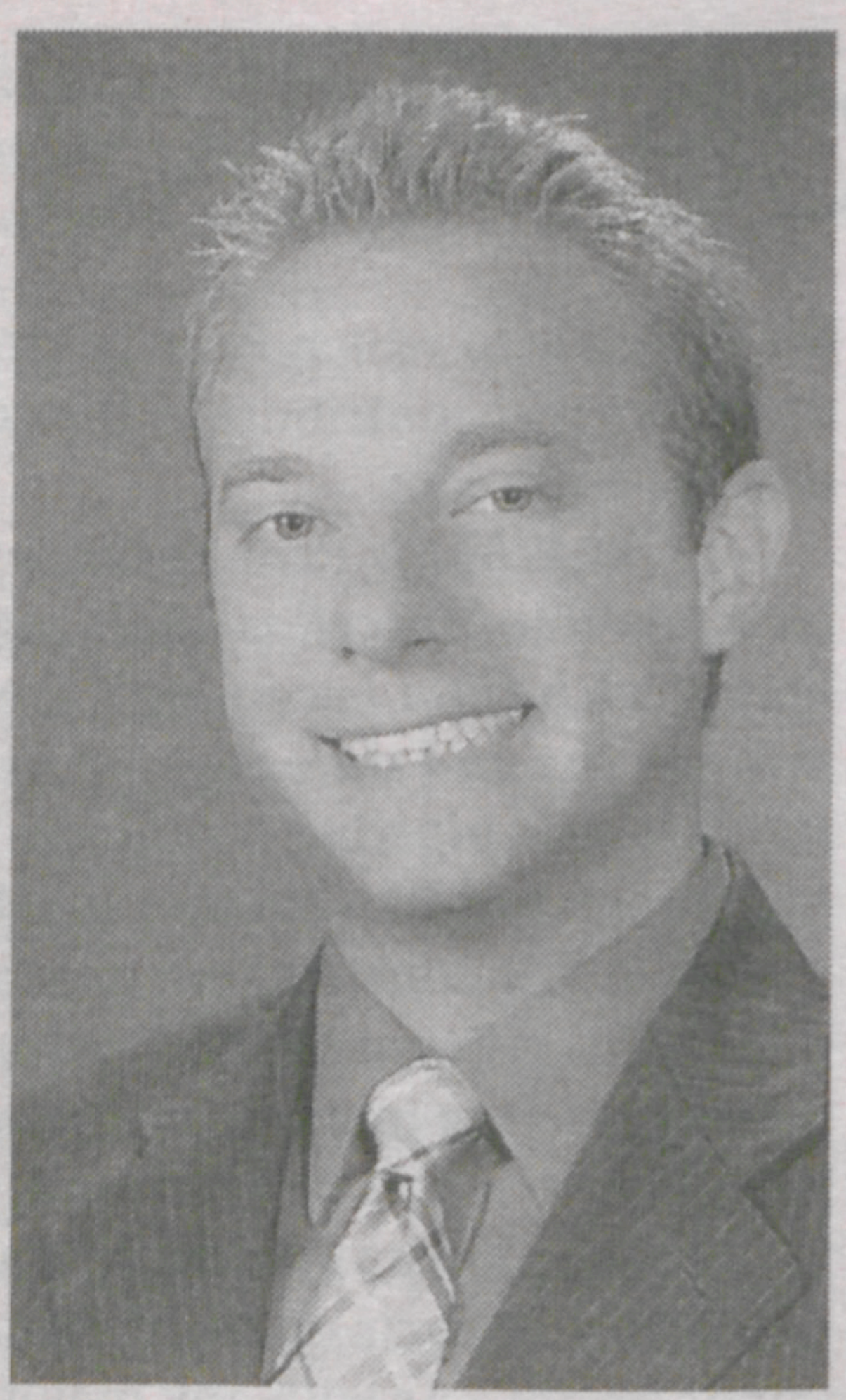

Seth Hamill

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* *Supplier Diversity Initiatives:* LGBT Business Enterprise Certification process via National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
* *Business Insurance:* Collaboration with Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce and Penn National Insurance Company
* *Long Term Care:* Through UFinancial, Insurance Representatives for Mass Mutual
* *Community Service:* Connects members to events such as Susquehanna Service Dogs through Keystone Human Services
* *Regular Business Mixers*
* *Submit job postings* (employer/employee) to web site
* *8 Counties:* Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York
* *150 members:* 85% LGBT members; 15% allied members; for-profit & non-profit members

Info: www.cpglcc.org

REVIEWS BOOKS DVDs CDs

CHER LLOYD

Dubbed "The Future" by The New York Times, Syco/Epic Records recording artist Cher Lloyd has lived up to the hype she created off of her notorious reign on The X Factor UK. The 18 year-old phenom co-wrote on her infectious UK debut garnering a #1 single with "Swagger Jagger" and a top five album for Sticks & Stones.

KADY Z

With an HMMA "Best Dance Remix" nomination already under Kady Z's belt for single "Beautiful Disaster," the queen of "dance music with a soul" has released her debut album One Million Pieces, an electrifying mix of heartfelt pop songs with all the hallmarks of becoming classic club jams. With heart-wrenching lyrics and lighthearted melodies, the album takes the listener through the different stages and landscapes of love.

RYE RYE

Dubbed 'the voice of Baltimore,' 21-year-old hip hop dynamo Rye Rye is no stranger to the limelight. She was the first artist signed to M.I.A's label N.E.E.T. Records and past collaborations have included hits with mentors M.I.A., Diplo and DJ Blaqstarr. More recently she teamed with Scandinavian dance queen Robyn for summer's smash, "Never Will Be Mine" and Far East Movement on their fall track "Jello." Declared "eminently danceable, with uptempo break beats, electronic flourishes, and double-Dutch-like rhymes," by the The New York Times,

IDINA MENZEL

Idina Menzel has a diverse career on the stage, in film and television, and in music. The beloved Broadway star, best known for her work in the Broadway musical and film adaption of Rent, her Tony Award-winning performance as Elphaba, the green-faced Wicked Witch of the West in Wicked, and her recurring role in the hit TV series Glee, has spent much of the past two years crisscrossing the country, headlining concerts with world-renowned symphony orchestras. This past November, on Menzel's 2011 tour itinerary, the star recorded her forthcoming PBS special Idina Menzel Live: Barefoot at the Symphony.

RUMER

Atlantic recording artist Rumer has announced plans for a North American tour. The acclaimed British singer/songwriter will kick off the tour with a special record of "Seasons of My Soul" with stops slated for San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Chicago, Toronto, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia

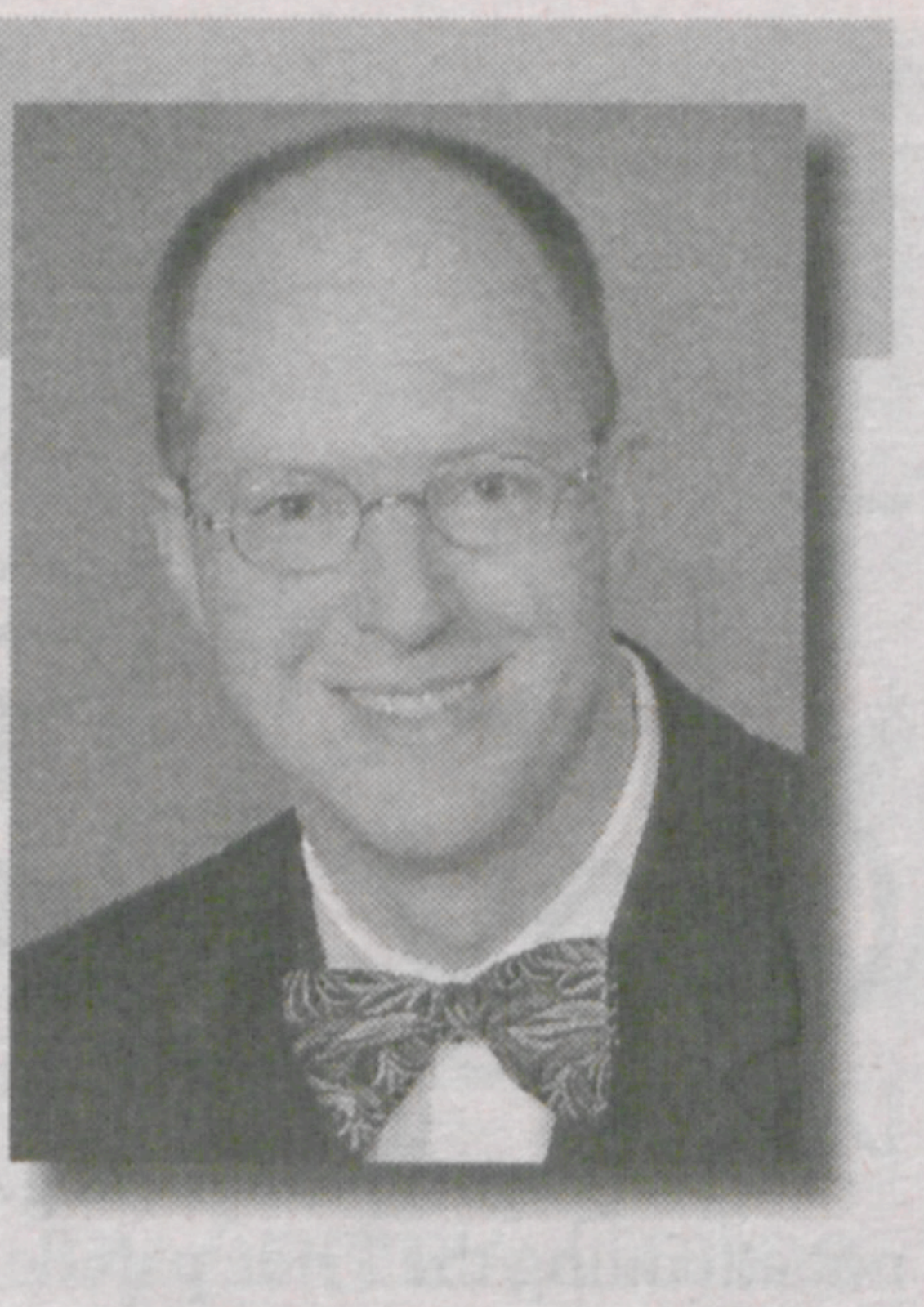
GUINEVERE

According to both the Mayan, and the Chinese calendar, 2012 is the year of the Guinevere! She is ready to take the pop world by storm as she gears up to hit the road with both an extensive US Tour opening up for Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter, while also headlining the first leg of her national club tour with dates at clubs in San Francisco, LA, San Diego, and Las Vegas.

legal column

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

May Your Life Be Interesting



"May your life be interesting," perhaps the most powerful curse ever spoken. Then again, it can also be considered a blessing. As gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered, the times we live in today are arguably both curse and blessing.

Cursed by centuries of being relegated to western society's shadows, we are being accepted at a rapidly increasing pace. However, the curse is still seen the strongest in the area of estate and tax planning. Without recognition of same-sex marriage at both the state and federal level there is no easy way to protect your same-sex partner. Getting married in D.C. or New York may help underscore intent but without recognition, you still need do execute several legal documents simply to be on par with an opposite-sex married couple. And of course we cannot take advantage of any of the favorable tax benefits of married couples and must pay the highest inheritance tax rates on the books. Yes, some days it feels like a curse.

But times they are a-changing. Several states do recognize same-sex marriage, many employers offer same-sex benefits and there is hope on the horizon regarding tax fairness. We may soon see some tax fairness and Pennsylvania may be on the cutting edge. A case out of Philadelphia, Cozen O'Connor, P.C. v. Jennifer Tobits, et al., may have the U.S. Third Circuit declaring both the Pennsylvania and federal DOMA unconstitutional. Of course this would only apply to the states within the Third Circuit's jurisdiction. Keep your fingers crossed, this may be a major blessing.

On a related note, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Gay and Lesbian Rights Committee is currently working on a report on the benefits of marriage under Pennsylvania law. This is a two year educational project that should help attorneys help their clients.

But for now, you need to protect both yourself and your loved ones so please consider the following priorities:

Priority one: a living will/health care directive.
Priority two: a durable power of attorney.
Priority three: a last will and testament.
Priority four: a HIPAA waiver.
Priority five: health care and insurance.
Priority six: pension and savings.

Of course, to truly protect yourself and your loved ones, you may need additional documents: a cohabitation agreement, guardianship, trust, new deed, and business transferal contract or business succession plan.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg area with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com or 717-503-1207.

Spending continued from page 7

bottom line: Funds are available, but they're not being spent well.

Pennsylvania's fiscal house is already facing a four-alarm fire with the state's spending crisis, and transportation must be considered in the context of all state spending. Fixing roads and bridges is a fundamental government responsibility, but many other state programs are not.

How can any legislator look taxpayers in the eye and demand they pay more at the pump each month to fix failing bridges, while state government hands out billions of dollars in subsidies for sport stadiums, corporate headquarters, and "green jobs"? Redirecting state borrowing for corporate welfare to transportation would make better use of taxpayers' dollars.

There are more ways to sure up funding for roads and bridges that won't empty the wallets of Pennsylvania drivers. Currently, the cost of state-funded construction projects ballooned by tens of millions of dollars due to archaic mandates that force private employers to pay workers inflated wages, increasing labor costs upward of 30 percent for the same quality of work. Redefining prevailing wage rates on state-funded construction projects can free up funding that could be used on other badly needed projects.

Moreover, transportation projects, like all government appropriations, must be prioritized. Beautification, streetscaping, bike trails, parking garages, and new maintenance buildings might garner applause and photo ops for politicians, but they eat up funding that could be used for vital repairs. Every dollar spent on unnecessary aesthetics is one dollar that cannot be spent fixing our more than 5,000 deficient bridges.

Furthermore, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to bring private sector expertise and financing to transportation. Public-private partnerships, which the commission supported, are contractual agreements between a government agency and a private entity to build or manage a project. These partnerships minimize costs and maximize accountability as private contractors put their own capital on the line while government retains ownership and oversight.

Lawmakers should also stop sending turnpike toll money to mass transit systems in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that most Pennsylvanians don't even use. Mass transit must rely on user fees, not taxpayer subsidies, freeing up turnpike revenue to repair the roads motorists are paying to drive on.

Ultimately, gas prices have already taken a financial toll on Pennsylvania drivers. Before taking more out of the wallets of drivers and taxpayers, lawmakers must prioritize the billions of dollars we spend today and protect our investment in transportation. Otherwise, Pennsylvania taxpayers will be out of gas along with patience for business-as-usual overspending.

Jonathan Humma is a research fellow and Nathan A. Benefield is director of policy analysis with the Commonwealth Foundation (www.commonwealthfoundation.org), Pennsylvania's free-market think tank.

Wear Protective Eyewear

From major league baseball stadiums to small-town softball fields, athletes are competing against each other, building physical fitness, entertaining millions and teaching the value of hard work and teamwork.

But for more than 40,000 athletes each year, the game can be ruined by an errant finger or a misjudged catch. That's the number of sports-related eye injuries that occur annually in the United States. Approximately one-third of eye-injury victims are children.

Last month's Sports Eye Safety Month, and through American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeSmart™ campaign, the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) reminded the public that the only way to prevent a sports-related eye injury is for athletes to wear appropriate, sport-specific protective eyewear properly fitted by an eye care professional. Lenses made from polycarbonate materials provide the highest level of impact protection; they can withstand the impact of a ball or other projectile traveling at 90 miles per hour.

"Athletes need to use protective eyewear because eye injuries can be devastating," said Kenneth Cheng, MD, PAO Immediate Past President and pediatric ophthalmologist. "Eye injuries are one of the leading causes of visual impairment in children. The injuries range from abrasions of the cornea and bruises of the lids to internal eye injuries, such as retinal detachments and internal bleeding. Unfortunately, some of these young athletes end up with permanent vision loss and blindness."

Many sports create risk for eye injuries, however, protection is available for many activities, including basketball, baseball, hockey, football, lacrosse, fencing, paintball and water polo, as well as racquetball, soccer and downhill skiing. "The solution is simple: wear eye protection anytime you are playing sports, especially those that involve small balls at high velocity," said Dr. Cheng. Most sporting leagues don't require children to wear eye protection, so parents must insist that their children wear eye protection when they play. "Parents also can set a good example by wearing eye protection when playing sports."

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University of Pitts. and Trans Students Clash

The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC) expressed concern over a March 20 decision by the University of Pittsburgh to depart from the university's Anti-Discriminatory Policies Committee's recommendation that allowed students to occupy bathrooms based on their gender identity.

Departing from the committee's decision means that students are required to use gender-specific bathrooms matching the gender listed on their birth certificates. PSEC is concerned that such a decision now may expose transgender students to threatening environments "in an area that should be private and free from danger," according to a news release.

Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression is currently illegal under Pittsburgh City and Allegheny County laws.

"The university is ignoring their equal access statement by actively discriminating against and creating a hostile environment for transgender students," PSEC Deputy Director and Pitt student Joy Horner said.

"We call on the university to redact this medieval policy - to force transgender students to provide a birth certificate to use the bathroom. We must work on improving the campus for transgender students by adding trans-inclusive policies and providing gender-neutral bathrooms and housing."

PSEC is a statewide LGBT youth organization which works on safe schools and communities for all. Info: www.pennsec.org

LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

Staff & Spring Programming Growth for Center

Happy spring from the LGBT Community Center!

Welcome to a couple of new Center faces: Barbara Darkes and Mira Johnson. Barbara Darkes was elected to serve on the board of directors at our January meeting. Barb is an attorney with McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, and lives in Lebanon with her partner Kathy.

Mira Johnson joined us in March as our new administrative assistant. Mira holds a Master of Arts degree in Folklore from the University of Oregon, where she also obtained her nonprofit management certificate. Mira is a native of Middletown, PA. I am looking forward to working with Barb and Mira to advance the mission of The Center!

We've been busy so far in 2012. Some of our highlights include:

5th Annual GSA Leadership Summit

More than 300 people attended the fifth annual Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Leadership Summit on February 24-25 at Dickinson College. We are proud to have presented this annual event in partnership with Planned Parenthood of Central PA, Dickinson College's Office of Diversity Initiatives, and Equality PA; and with support from Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA). Attendees participated in workshops ranging topically from successfully running a meeting to preventing sexual violence on campus to forming healthy dating relationships. The event grows every year, and we're already preparing for 2013. Thanks to committee-members Debbie Gable, Paula Lima-Jones, Erica Rich, Eric St. Clair, Michelle Simmons, and Megan Yost for their work on this unique and important educational opportunity!

CPLAN Continues to Grow

The Golden Oldies Dance, held by our Central PA LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN) on February 25 at Liquid 891, was a huge success! More than 65 people attended the event, and attendees requested that the group hold more dances like it in the future. Stay tuned for news on our next oldies dance! In other news, CPLAN will start a monthly "night out"—a social and educational meeting at the Linglestown Giant Community Center on the fourth Thursdays from 6-8 pm. The first meeting is on April 26.

Staff Training Services

Some of our lesser-known work involves training professional staff to be culturally competent in working with LGBT clients. In 2011, for example, we trained over 500 educators to create safer spaces for LGBT youth in schools.

We've also expanded our training offerings through CPLAN to increase cultural competency for staff working with LGBT older adults. So far in 2012, we've already provided training to the following groups: Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (via their Long Term Living Training Institute), Bethany Children's Home, Harrisburg School District, HACC Gettysburg, Gettysburg High School, and Pinnacle Health.

I hope to see you soon at one of our activities or events! Keep an eye on The Center in 2012; we've got a lot more in store.

The mission of the LGBT Community Center Coalition is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, spiritual, and cultural activities that foster wholeness.

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

The Real Gay Pride

Years ago a prominent gay man was criticized for not attending the Pride parade in his city. "Honey," he explained, "I AM a gay pride parade!" I can relate – if you know me you know why. This article is not meant to discuss the possibility that we are "post-Pride," nor do I think he believed that we should stop gathering to celebrate who we are as gay men or lesbians. Rather, it is a closer look at how we express ourselves throughout the year.

Celebrating Pride is more than attending a parade, festival or gathering where the majority of the people are LesBiGay, transgender or gay-friendly. Pride is being who we are every day of the year while recognizing the possible risks in doing so in the greater community. Two gay men can hold hands during the church services in many affirming congregations around our area – over 20 at last count, by the way! – but walking down the street in Duncannon? Perhaps not.

I lived in the South for four years in the late 1990s. There I saw a living example of pride when I was a flight attendant, working a flight from Chicago to Atlanta. The two male passengers were obviously in love. The tall, clean-shaven blond was seated by the window. His thinner, bearded companion with dark hair was in the aisle seat. They both wore boots and jeans. The worn look of the pants more than likely came from hard work on a ranch or farm than from a Clorox bottle and wire brush job in some upscale Atlanta townhouse bathroom. (Not that I noticed, mind you, but flight attendants ARE required to check seat-belt compliance and, well, you take your job perks were you can get them!)

Soon after we took off the one on the aisle put his head in his boyfriend's lap and fell asleep. The blond laid his hand gently on his lover's chest and became involved in his book. To my knowledge his hand never left that spot until we landed. I felt proud of their open and loving affection for one another.

They were not two half-naked men humping each other on a loud float with dance music blaring, careening down Main Street USA in a Pride festival. They were not throwing blood on a church to protest religious intolerance or in a shouting match with evangelical protesters. They weren't in tuxedos drinking champagne at a high-priced fund-raiser, more interested in being seen than being of service.

They were simply in love. Simply themselves: unapologetically gay and most certainly a couple. They made me feel very, very proud. These two guys also "got it" when it comes to being who we are regardless of our sexual orientation or preferences. They did not need to make a statement because they WERE the statement. No one snickered at their quiet display of love because they were confident and secure in themselves without throwing it in people's faces.

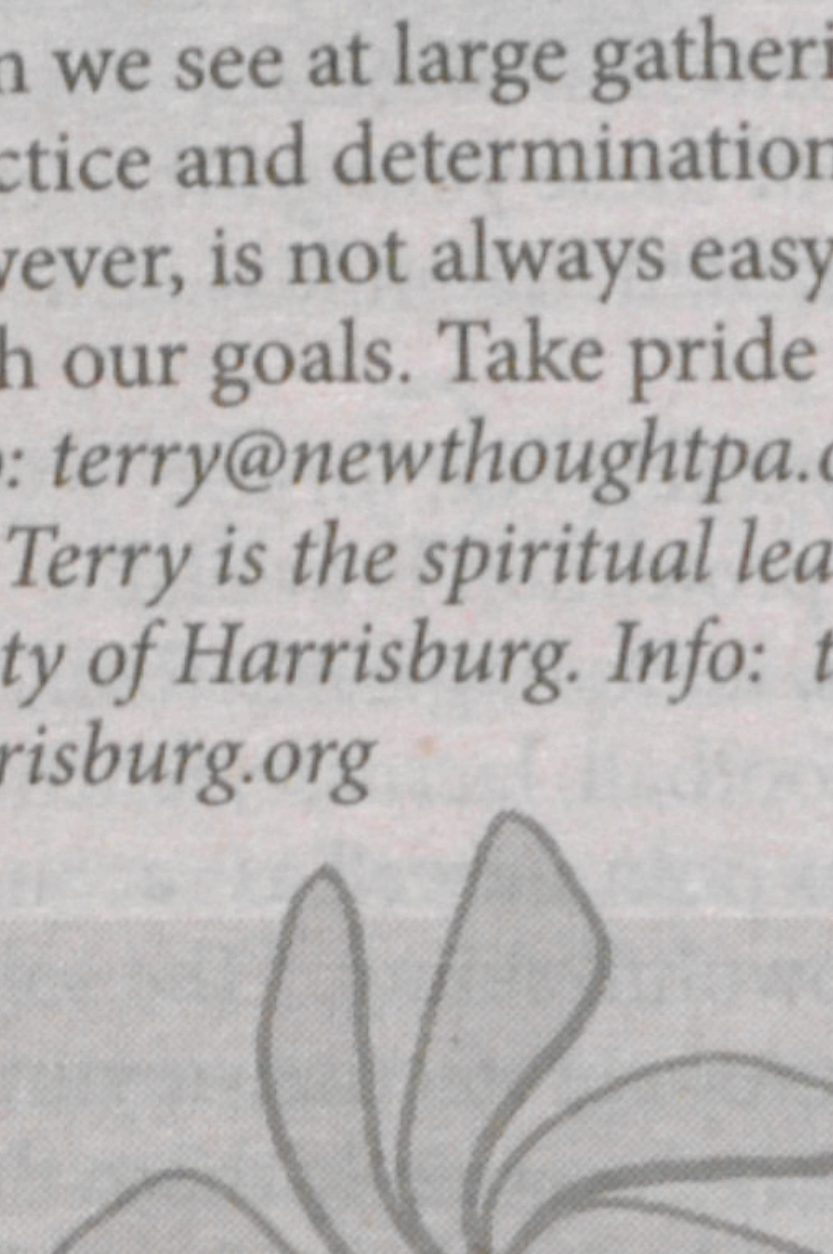
In 1937 it was Eleanor Roosevelt who reminded us, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Her quote speaks to us today about the power we each exercise in our own lives when determining how we will live our lives. If we, as GLBTQ people or straight allies, allow prejudice, hatred and bigotry to stop us from celebrating our diversity then we live as victims. We become powerless and impotent.

Conversely, if we live confidently and securely in our lives, unapologetic for who we are and who we love, people will be more likely to accept us. We can slink quietly into a room, afraid like a mouse and find a safe place in the corner, barge into the room with a chip on our shoulder, or walk into a room with a peaceful air of confidence about who we are. How we present ourselves is a defining factor in how we are received. Each of us must decide for ourselves what we expect our lives to be.

We cannot simply wish things into our experience. Creating a life worth living is possible, but it takes work, both physical and mental. Most of us are used to the physical part. The mental work of reminding ourselves throughout the year of the support and freedom we see at large gatherings of like-minded people at Pride is something that requires practice and determination. It is very simple to make a decision to live with pride. Simple, however, is not always easy. When it gets rough we have each other to lean on to accomplish our goals. Take pride in that. We are all together in this thing called life.

Info: terry@newthoughtpa.org; www.newthoughtpa.org

Dr. Terry is the spiritual leader of both Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley and Unity of Harrisburg. Info: terry@newthoughtpa.org; www.newthoughtpa.org; www.unityofharrisburg.org



If you are ashamed to stand by your colors, you had better seek another flag.

~ *Author Unknown*

allgreatquotes.com

KEY WEST SPRING BREAK

OUT OF TOWN

by Andrew Collins

Even with much of North America enjoying a comparably mild winter this year, let's face it - thoughts of sipping tropical cocktails by the pool, floating happily on a catamaran, and scampering to the beach in flip-flops sound pretty appealing right now. There are still a few mean weeks left in winter, and one of the world's most delightfully distinctive and wonderfully scenic gay resort destinations beckons. In fact, sunny Key West has lately made a strong push to market itself as the ultimate Gay Spring Break getaway.

Key West's beautiful waterfront, from near the foot of historic Duval Street

Supplied photo: By Andrew Collins

This tiny island is linked to the Florida mainland by the 105-mile Overseas Highway (U.S. 1), which crosses dozens of bridges as it wends its way scenically through the Florida Keys. It's the southernmost point in the United States (with the exception of Hawaii), and it's less than 90 miles across the Straits of Florida from Cuba. In other words, while Key West is very much part of the United States, it feels much like its own little Caribbean nation (they don't call it the "Conch Republic" for nothing). This makes it an ideal tropical getaway if you're seeking the climate and character of the Caribbean, but with an exceedingly welcoming attitude toward gays and lesbians. It's also pretty easy to get here - if you'd rather forego the pretty 3-hour drive from Miami, just fly here: Key West is served by a variety of major airlines with direct flights to Miami, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, and Tampa.

Key West's Gay Spring Break promotion (gayspringbreakkeywest.com) is aimed squarely at the thousands of college students who plan their vacations throughout late winter and into early spring. All you have to do to partake of a number of discounts provided by local gay-frequented resorts, restaurants, bars, and attractions is present your student I.D. to the staff at the Key West Business Guild (gaykeywestfl.com), right off historic Duval Street at 513 Truman Avenue. Do this, and you'll be issued a Gay Spring Break Card.

Attractions

Of course, even if you're not a student, this is a great time of year to visit (perhaps you like hanging out in bars and gay resorts packed with college students?). And the Key West Business Guild, which functions as the town's gay welcome center, is worth a stop as well to pick up brochures and advice on where to go, and also to visit the fascinating free exhibit on legendary playwright Tennessee Williams, who spent much of his life here.

As utterly relaxing as it is here, Key West actually has enough in the way of museums and activities to keep activity-seekers quite happy. In addition to Tennessee Williams, the island has been a part-time home of author Ernest Hemingway, whose rambling old mansion is open for tours (note the many friendly six- and seven-toed cats living on the property, descendants of "Papa's" own feline friends). And President Harry Truman set up his "Winter White House" here in 1946 - it, too, is a museum.

Other attractions well worth a visit include the Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservancy, Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, and Mel Fisher Heritage Maritime Museum.

You'll also find a several tour companies and boat charters catering enthusiastically to the gay market, including Blu Q Catamaran Gay Sailing, Danger Charters, and several other outfitters. And you can catch a ride to Fort Jefferson and Dry Tortugas National Park on the Yankee Freedom II ferry - it's a long way out to this intriguing island park, but the ride - which includes breakfast, lunch, and snorkeling - is part of the fun. There's also a Gay Key West Trolley Tour every Saturday at 4 pm.

It's sometimes said, erroneously, that Key West lacks beaches. It is true that compared with many Florida and Caribbean destinations, few accommodations have direct beachfront. But you will find some stunning stretches of sand within walking distance of Historic District hotels and guesthouses, including Fort Zachary Taylor, Smathers Beach, and Higgs Beach.

Eating

As you might guess, given the island's location, both seafood and Latin American cuisine are major culinary highlights in Key West. You'll find plenty of excellent restaurants around town, all of them casual in spirit but some turning out impressively sophisticated contemporary cuisine. A couple of newer spots around town have been garnering acclaim of late, including gay-owned Flaming Buoy Filet Co. (theflamingbuoy.com), a cozy and romantic spot serving eclectic, first-rate cuisine, like tuna-watermelon ceviche and pan-seared mahimahi with banana salsa. Don't miss the avocado cheesecake when it's featured. Tucked down an quite lane off of Duval, brand-new 2 Cents (facebook.com/2centsKw) is garnering raves from discerning foodies for its stellar yet affordable gastro-pub cuisine.

Near the gay guesthouses on Fleming Street, dapper Azur (azurkeywest.com) turns out artfully prepared Mediterranean-inspired creations, such as yellowtail-snapper Benedict for brunch, and duck and pork ribs cassoulet at dinner. You can't go wrong with Pepe's (pepescafe.net), a stalwart for steaks, oysters, and old-school classics since 1909. Nearby B.O.'s Fish Wagon (bosfishwagon.com) is a breezy, open-air spot serving delicious conch fritters, soft-shell crab, and quite possibly the best fried grouper sandwich in Key West. Walk a few doors over to Coffee Plantation (coffeeplantationkeywest.com) for espresso drinks, tasty desserts, and comfy seating with free Wi-Fi.

One of the better Italian restaurants in town, and also one of the gayest, La Trattoria (latrattoria.us) draws high praise for such tasty, traditional creations as gnocchi gorgonzola and scallops in scampi sauce. Seven Fish (7fish.com), which occupies an old luncheonette and has a sleek, sophisticated interior, serves seafood-oriented bistro fare, such as crab and shiitake mushroom ravioli.

continued on page 30

THERE'S POWER IN OUR PRIDE.

Please participate in the largest Gay & Lesbian Community Survey in history, and help demonstrate the growing Power in Our Pride.

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Everyone who completes the survey by June 15, 2012 will be entered into a drawing to win one of five US $100 cash prizes. (Or if you win, you may designate a non-profit charity to receive the prize.)

Please take the survey today, and tell your friends!

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About the Gay & Lesbian Community Survey®: Tremendous strides toward full equality have been achieved by our communities over the past decade. There's Power in Our Pride. Power to make a difference!

Gay and lesbian survey studies have opened doors (and minds) in leading corporations and organizations, which in turn have recognized the value of their LGBT employees through the establishment of equal hiring policies and domestic partner benefits. This has been a catalyst, leading to sweeping changes in political and social inclusivity.

Demographic reports also influence marketing investment. Virtually absent until recently, we now see a growing variety of a products and services represented in gay media, celebrating our diversity. Ads keep LGBT publications and websites in business, serving their communities with independent news and information.

Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.

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Lancaster PA
PRIDE 2012
Guide

June 16th
12 pm to 6 pm
Buchanan Park
Lancaster, PA

Lancaster's Buchanan Park will be transformed into a carnival like you've never seen before! Jugglers, mimes, street performers, face painting, and a dunk tank where you even get to test your skill at soaking a drag queen! Three stages will entertain you throughout the day with dancing, live music, and, of course, the ever-popular drag queens and kings. Vendors will sell everything from art and jewelry to Pride wares to food of all sorts. And don't forget the kids-this is a family-friendly day featuring a Kid's Corner just for the young and young-at-heart.

Lancaster Pride Guide brought to you by:

VOICE central

Lancaster PA
PRIDE 2012

Come Join Us!

Saturday June 16th
12:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Buchanan Park

Lancaster Pride Festival

Something for Everyone!

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Be sure to visit the PRIDE table for raffle tickets and Pride information

- Please do your part to keep the area clean and safe—pick up trash and recyclables and deposit in their proper receptacles located throughout the park
- Ignore any protesters
- Report problems quickly to Pride workers or security personnel

The Pride Board would like to thank our talented entertainers, varied vendors, dedicated volunteers, and all of our supporters. Lancaster PA Pride is only possible because of you!

For of your **PRIDE** apparel, visit
www.cafepress.com/lancasterpapride

Visit www.lancasterpapride.com or www.facebook.com/LancasterPAPride for a current list of entertainers, vendors, and sponsors.

A project of the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

Lancaster PA PRIDE 2012

Entertainment:

The Darkes Band *(formerly The Dirty Girls Band)*

Joyful Noise Choir, Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

Sharadin Bigler Theatre

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

Various drag performers, *including but not limited to:*
MISS LANCASTER PA PRIDE EMERITUS
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Photos by Sharon Daub

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Lancaster Pride is a 501 (c) 3 organization operating under the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA.

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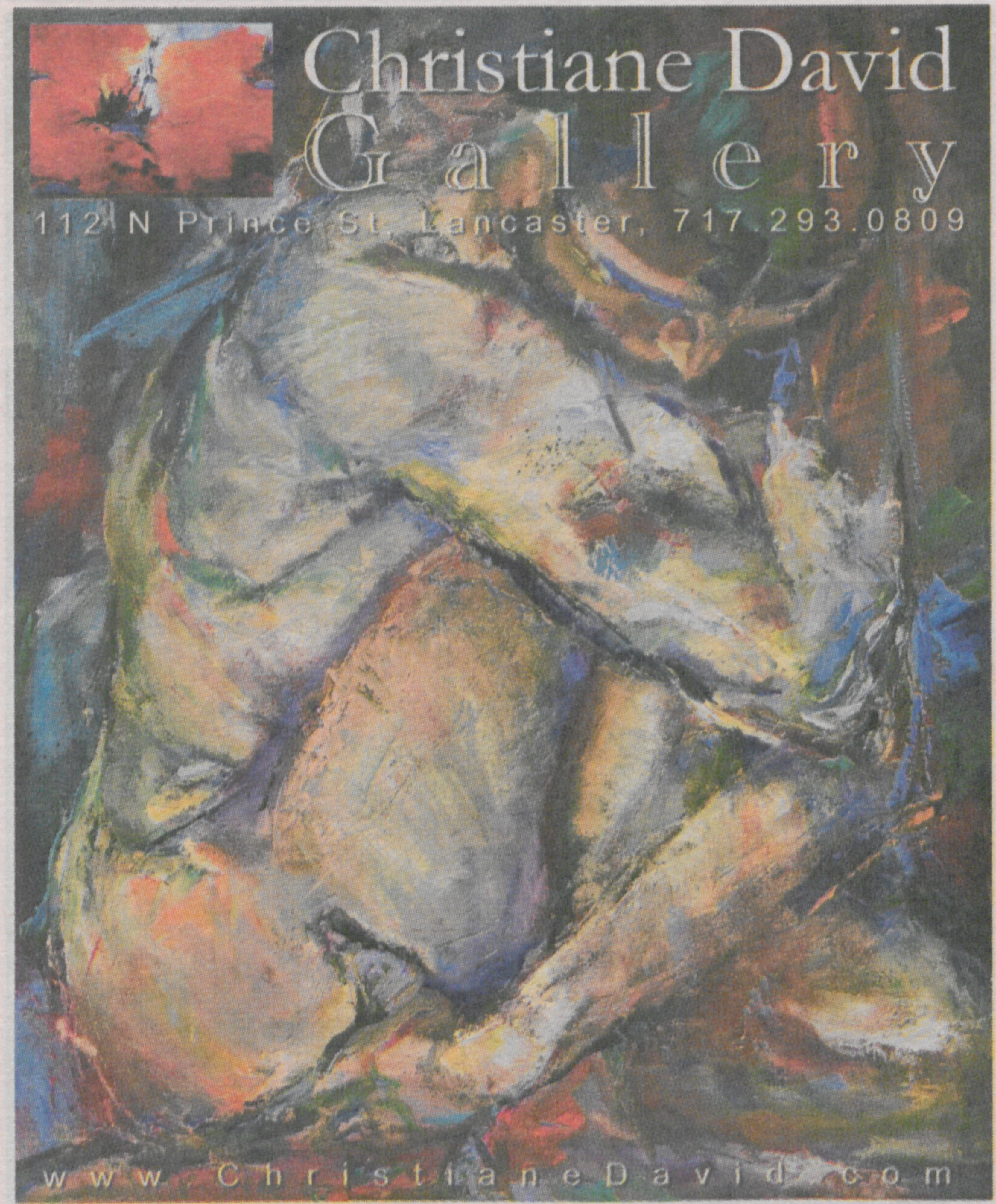
(more coming!)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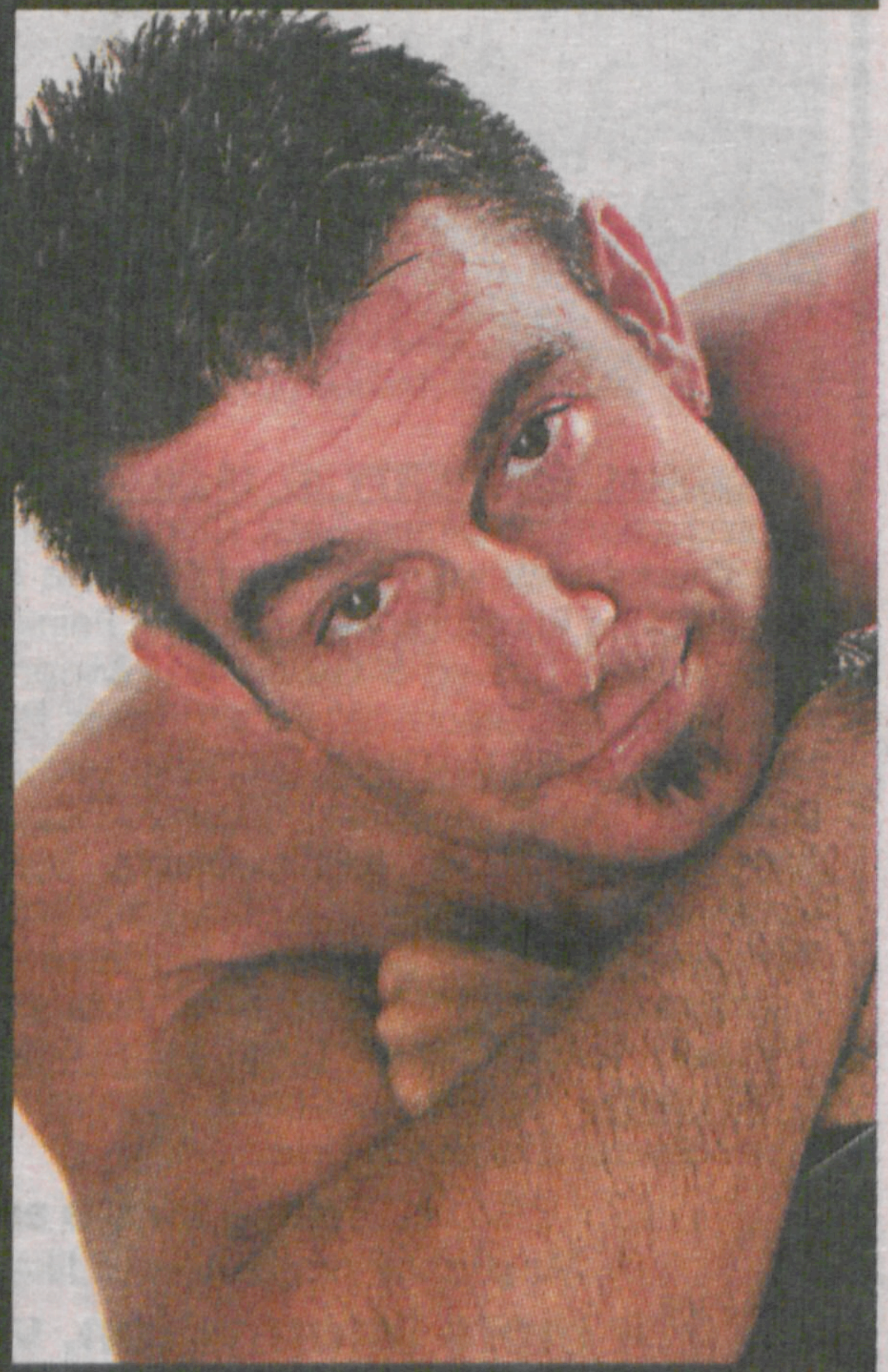

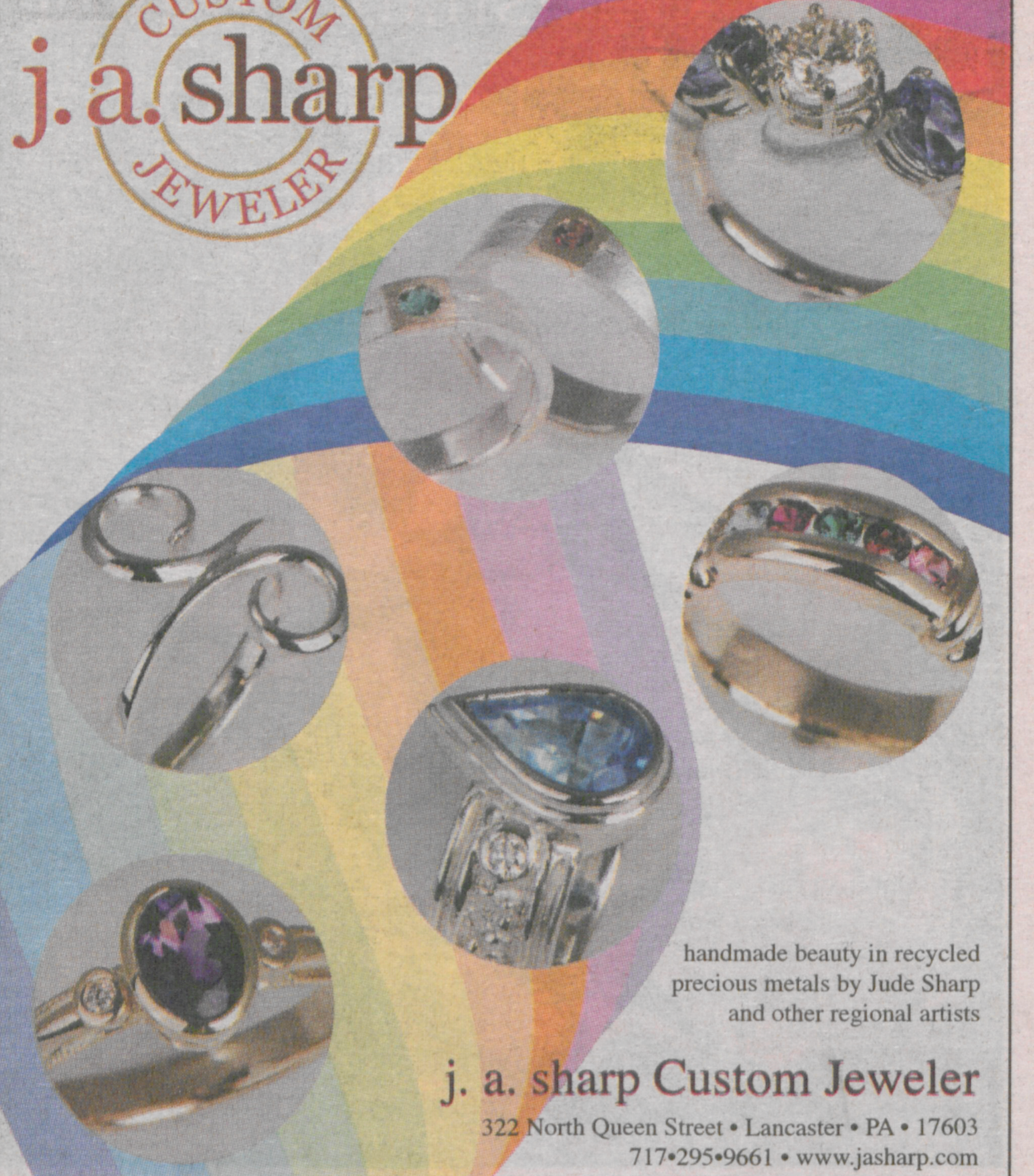

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FROM THE CREATORS OF LES MIZ!

Music by Claude-Michel Schönberg
Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr. and Alain Boublil

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Tickets: 717-232-Open (6736)

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Mamma Mia
June 26-July 1
Mamma Mia! is the ultimate feel-good show that has audiences coming back again and again to relive the thrill. Now it's your turn to have the time of your life at this smash-hit musical that combines ABBA's greatest hits, including "Dancing Queen,""S.O.S.,""Super Trouper," "Take A Chance on Me" and "The Winner Takes It All," with an enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship. Whether it's your first visit or your fourteenth, see the show that has the whole world coming back for more, because every time feels like the first time at Mamma Mia!
Tickets: 717-534-3405, 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com.

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Sharadin Bigler Theatre
Blithe Spirit, Noel Coward
Classic Comedy
June 7-23
Show times vary by date, Wed., Thur.-Sun.
This Noel Coward comedy classic has reigned as theater royalty ever since its debut in 1941. Its 2009 revival was again nominated for a Tony! The merry mayhem unfolds when a socialite novelist invites an eccentric medium to conduct a séance as research for his new book. His late ex-wife is accidentally summoned from Beyond and proceeds to wreak havoc with his second marriage by appearing only to him. Like fine wine, "Blithe Spirit" never loses its intoxicating appeal.
Tickets $22-27.50, Limited side seating $15
Limited $10 student rush tickets 30 mins. Prior
Pay What You Wish unsold tickets 30 mins. prior to Sat. matinee
Info: 717-733-7966; sharadinbiglertheater.com

BLITHE SPIRIT

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Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
The iconic and profoundly influential Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, often cited as a catalyst for an entire movement in Country Rock and American Roots Music, continues to add to their legendary status. With multi-platinum and gold records, strings of top ten hits including, Fishin' In The Dark and Mr. Bojangles, multiple Grammy®, IBMA, CMA Awards and nominations - the band's accolades continue to accumulate. Their groundbreaking album, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" has been inducted into the U.S. Library of Congress as well as the Grammy® Hall of Fame.
Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

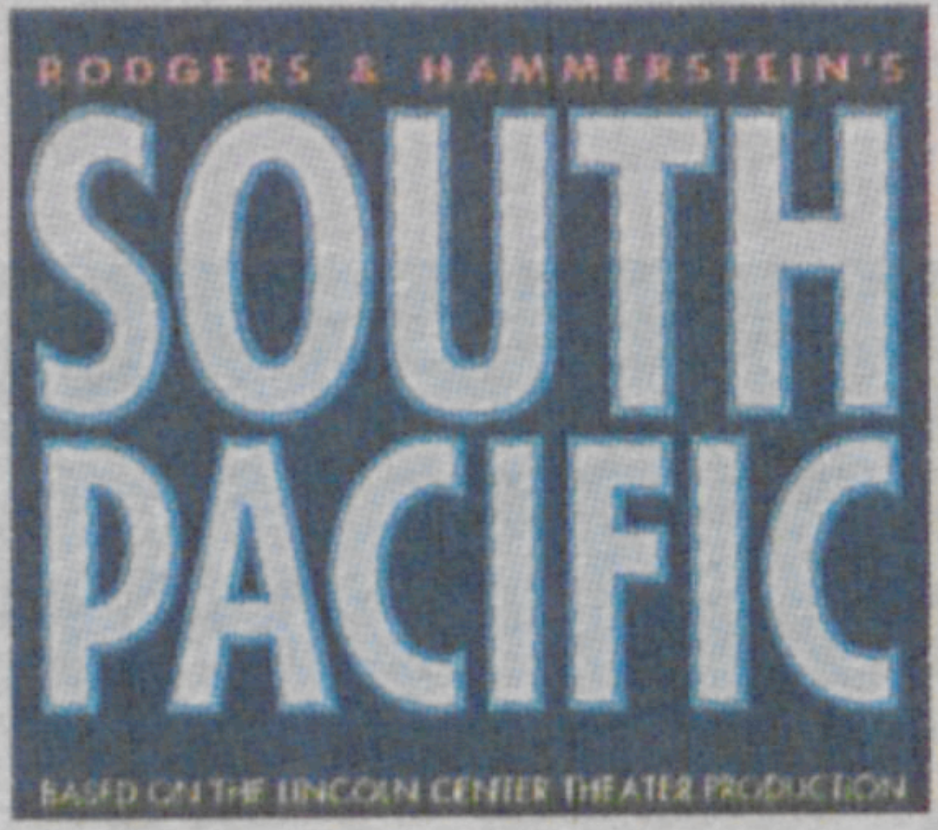
June Series
Ballet
June 20, 21, 23

June Series

Sunoco Performance Theater
5 unique programs - 1 extraordinary experience
In a dynamic display of thrilling choreography and stunning dancing, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet's June Series comes together to create five unique programs showcasing the dancers' versatility and the Company's vast repertoire.
Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

STRAND CAPITOL

South Pacific
May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Set on a tropical island during World War II, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices. Considered by many the finest musical ever written, the beloved score's songs include such classics as Some Enchanted Evening, I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair, Younger Than Springtime, Bali Ha'i, This Nearly Was Mine and There is Nothin' Like a Dame.
Tickets: 717-846-1111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SOUTH PACIFIC
BASED ON THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER PRODUCTION

Pokey LaFarge & South City 3
June 27, 8 p.m.
Capitol Theatre
St. Louis musician and singer Pokey LaFarge is spreading the early American music tradition with his creative mix of early jazz, string ragtime, country blues and western swing, making him one of the most innovative of American roots musicians today. LaFarge achieves timelessness with his original songs while honoring the legendary songwriters and musicians of songs he covers. Along with his crew of hand-picked supporting musicians, Lafarge's extraordinary blend of raw talent and refined, idiosyncratic appeal charms audiences with their one-of-a-kind sound.
Tickets: 717-846-1111

FULTON OPERA HOUSE

August: Osage County
Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, Best Play
By Tracy Letts
Until May 13
This darkly comic drama explores the unspoken secrets that haunt the Westons, a dysfunctional extended family in rural Oklahoma. Following the disappearance of their alcoholic patriarch, the clan gathers at the farmhouse to rehash family feuds, confront long-suppressed demons and contend with the vitriolic, pill-popping grandmother at the center of the storm. "This turbo-charged tragicomedy is the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years," exclaimed The New York Times
Mature audiences only.
Tickets: 717-397-7425

AUGUST:
OSAGE COUNTY

Miss Saigon
Nominated for 11 Tony Awards
June 6-July 8
A stirring and heart-rending contemporary musical adaptation of Madame Butterfly from the same composer-lyricist team as Les Misérables. Years after leaving Vietnam, an American soldier discovers his war bride is still alive and is now raising their son. He returns to Saigon to find her, but with the Viet Cong closing in on the city and other ties at home binding him, he is forced to make some large decisions before leaving Vietnam again.
Tickets: 717-397-7425

MISS SAIGON

NED SMITH CENTER

The Hidden World of Moths
May 8, 7 p.m.
Join Seabrooke Leckie, co-author of the brand new Peterson Field Guide to Moths of Northeastern North America, at the Ned Smith Center as she shares with us the amazing hidden world of moths. Far from dull, these often beautiful nighttime insects come in a dazzling array of shapes and colors. In addition to introducing you to many of these marvelous creatures, Seabrooke will be available to answer questions about moths and sign copies of the new book. Books will be available for purchase at the event.
Info: 717-692-3699; nedsmithcenter.org

YORK LITTLE THEATRE

Steel Magnolias
May 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 7:30 p.m.
May 13, 20, 3 p.m.
27 S. Belmont St.
York, PA 17403
www.ylt.org
Seats $10 - $23
Broadway's slice-of-life comedy drama may be the funniest story ever to make you cry. It explores the secrets, joys, sorrows, fears and loves of a group of southern women who exchange gossip in their local beauty parlor. The women, fragile as magnolia blossoms, are tough as steel as they share life's moments, from the euphoric to the tragic, all with beautifully coiffed hair.

Steel Magnolias

Charlotte's Web
June 1, 2, 8, 9, 7 p.m.
June 2, 3, 9, 10, 3 p.m.
www.ylt.org
All seats reserved, $10
A beautiful tale of friendship and loyalty based on the beloved classic children's book by E. B. White. Wilbur, the runty barnyard pig is nursed to good health by the farmer's daughter only to discover that he will become the Christmas Ham. Charlotte, his dear friend the spider, spins an elaborate web to save his life and he becomes the prize-winning pig of the County Fair.

Charlotte's Web

York events

Bugs...Outside the Box Exhibition - Until May 15
North Museum of Natural History & Science
400 College Avenue, Lancaster
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Adults: $7.50; Jrs (ages 3-17) & Srs: $6.50; Planetarium add"l $2.50
Amanda Eckinger 717-291-3941
Science - larger than life! With an array of enormous and scientifically accurate sculptures, "Bugs...Outside the Box" provides a surprising and rarely seen look at these amazing creatures. This exhibit features heavily armored stag beetles with jaws as big as your legs, a giant butterfly with a five foot wingspan, and a long-arm beetle more than ten feet tall!

Pro Motorcycle Hill Climb (National Series) - June 3, 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Nitro-burning motorcycles on 300-ft hill with curve near the top. (Rain or shine)
White Rose Motorcycle Club, 5252 Hill Climb Road, Spring Grove (Jefferson) 17362
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White Rose Motorcycle Club 717-229-2621 www.whiterosemc.org

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THE PRIMARY VOTE IS IN

continued from page 1

Christ
State Representative
SINGLETON
McEntee
State Representative for 105th
Elect Gloria
MARTIN-ROBERTS
STILP
CONGRESS
PROGRESS
for the LGBT COMMUNITY
Experienced Leader
Chris
Dietz
Representative
For years, I've fought government waste.
PERKINSON
CONGRESS
"I will be a Citizen Legislator working for everyone in our district, not the special interests."
- Harry Perkinson
PATTY KIM
for STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROB TEPLITZ
NEW LEADERSHIP WITH THE EXPERIENCE WE NEED

During a panel discussion organized by Harrisburg Hope when asked if they would support same-sex marriage by openly-gay Harrisburg City Treasurer John Campbell, Martin-Roberts said, "I do not support" such measures. Christ prompted laughter from the crowd when he said, "If you don't agree with same-sex marriage, then don't marry someone of the same sex." Kim said she thought all citizens should have the same civil rights in every way possible.

When Josh Appleman, representing the LGBT Community Center Coalition, asked the candidates if they would support anti-discrimination legislation regarding employment and other public accommodations, all four candidates agreed they would support such measures. "I'd be honored to support such legislation," Kim said.

✖ 104TH HOUSE

As expected, openly-gay Chris Deitz won the Democratic primary. He did not face a challenger from his own party. Dietz is a 2011 FAB award honoree for service to the region's LGB T community and is a proponent of eco-tourism and government reformer.

Nov. 6 Deitz will face incumbent Republican State House member Sue Helm. She ran without her party's endorsement against Jenna Lewis, who received the party's endorsement. Helm gained 60.8% over Lewis' 39.2%. Helm nearly lost her seat two years ago when she ran against activist Gene Stilp when she also ran with the Republican-party endorsement. The district is located in Dauphin County.

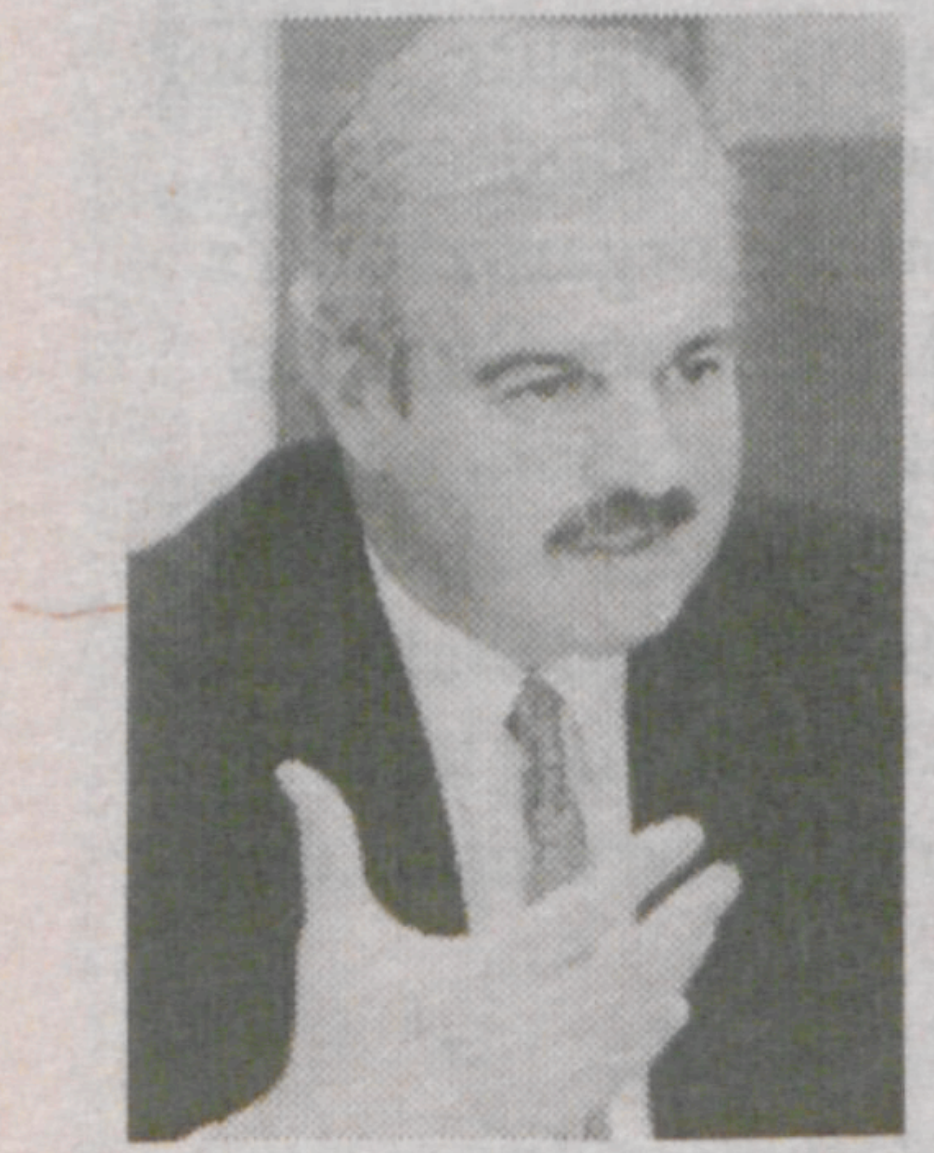
✖ 105TH HOUSE

Openly-gay Kelly McEntee will face incumbent Republican Representative Ron Marsico. Neither candidate faced a challenger from within the ranks of their own party for the primary election.

McEntee is a native of Ohio and has been a resident of Pennsylvania since 2005 and Dauphin County since 2009. McEntee and her partner, Angela Dicks, live in Linglestown with their young adult sons. The district is located in Dauphin County.

✖ 182ND HOUSE

In the 182nd district Brian Sims challenged his old boss incumbent state Representative Babette Josephs. Sims had recently served as her campaign manager. The district is essentially a center city location described as the "gayest" state house district in the commonwealth. Sims carried the vote over Josephs with 51.6% against her 48.4%. On the day of the election, Sims was named to The Advocate's Forty Under 40 list.



Marsico

Deitz

McEntee

Kim

Harrisburg's John Campbell Named to The Advocate's Forty Under 40 List

By Frank Pizzoli

Twenty-four year old John Campbell, Harrisburg's elected City Treasurer, was named to The Advocate's list of Forty Under 40 list. He is executive director of the Historic Harrisburg Association and is an economics major at Lebanon Valley College.

The piece notes Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson and her alleged homophobic comments made earlier in her tenure which Campbell told The Advocate: "The question isn't the mayor's opinion on gays," Campbell says. "It's whether she's competent."

Campbell tells *Central Voice* "It's a honor to be selected as on of The Advocate's Forty Under 40." He hopes that this honor will serve "as an inspiration to young LGBT people. As a generation that will be greatly affected by the decisions made today, we must remember that change only happens when we act, take charge, and commit ourselves to prosperity."

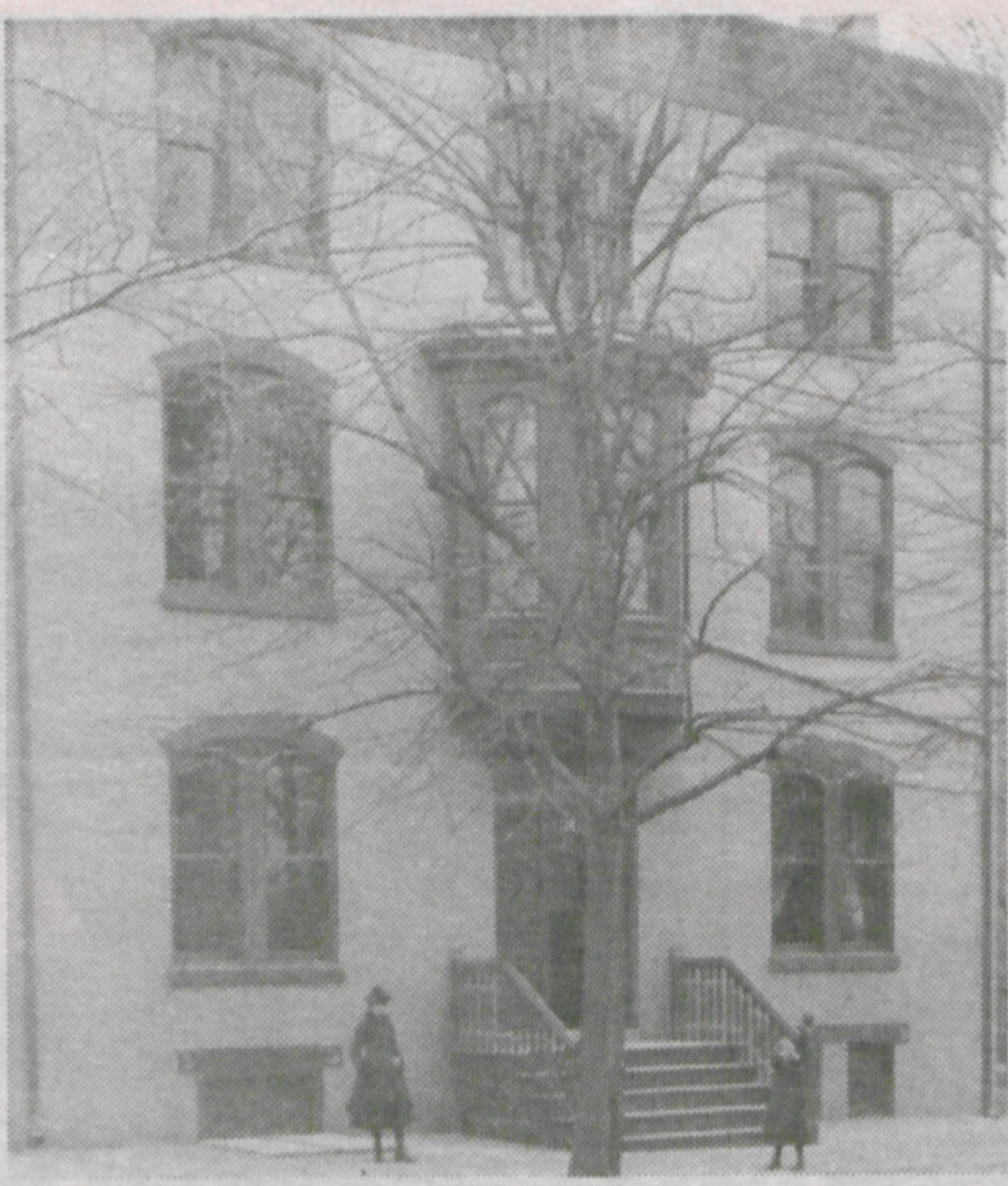
In 2008 (Sept-Oct 2008), *Central Voice* wrote of that: "No one who knows him will be surprised if John Campbell someday becomes the nation's first openly-gay president."

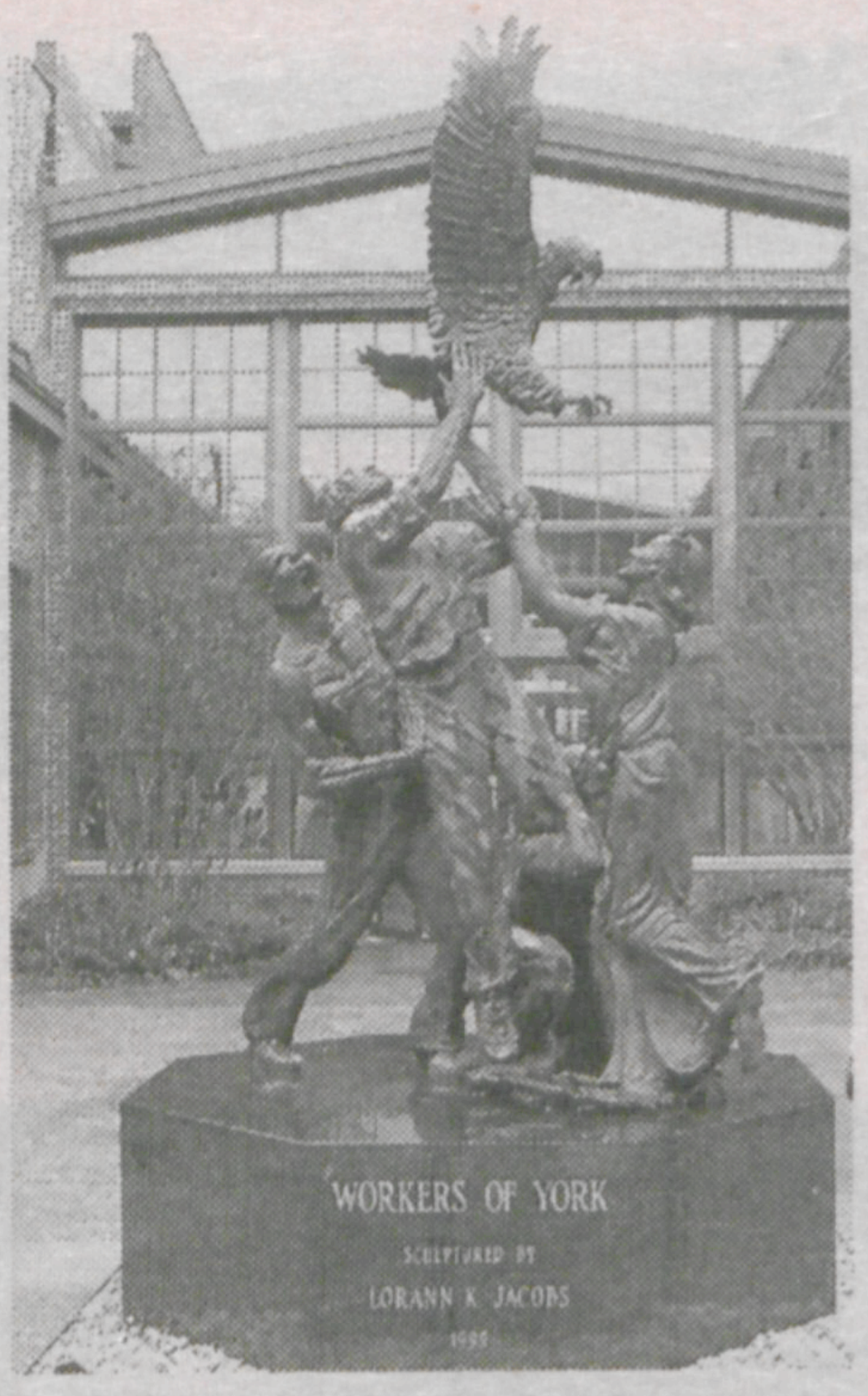
In seventh grade, he told his mother that he wanted to be president. While it's not unusual for kids that age to have dreams of high-profile careers, it is unusual for them to grow up never wavering from their first aspiration. To characterize Campbell as unusual would be an understatement.

A second Pennsylvanian, Brian Sims, 33, was also named to the list.

> No government has the right to tell its citizens when or whom to love. The only queer people are those who don't love anybody.
>
> ~Rita Mae Brown, speech, 28 August 1982

York County Heritage Trust Sites Reopen


Bonham House circa 1890



Agricultural & Industrial Museum

Historical Society Museum

York County Heritage Trust recently reopened three seasonal sites: the Bonham House, Colonial Complex, and the Fire Museum of York County. Each site will remain open through November 24, 2012.

The Colonial Complex will be open Tuesday-Saturday with daily guided tours typically offered at 10 and 11 a.m., 1, 2 and 3 p.m.. Daily public tour schedules are subject to change, especially during the month of May.

The Bonham House and Fire Museum will be open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Bonham House is seen by guided tours only, which depart from the Historical Society Museum at 10 and 11 a.m., 1, 2, and 3 p.m..

Prices are $10.00 for adults and $5.00 for children between ages 8-18. Children under the age of 7 are admitted free. The Library & Archives entry rate will remain the same at $6.00 per day. One regular admission pass provides entry to all Trust sites and museums that are open on date of purchase.

The Agricultural & Industrial Museum and Historical Society Museum are open Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Library & Archives is open Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Info: www.yorkheritage.org

LGBT History: Dutch Priests Castrated Gay Men in the 1950's

While investigating massive sexual abuse of minors by the Catholic clergy in the Netherlands, it has been documented that the forcible and unwilling castration of at least a dozen young teenagers and maybe more had taken place in the 1950's. What is more shocking, if that is possible, is one of the cases clearly was a result of a young man reporting sexual abuse at the hands of a priest.

Henk Heithuis was attending Harreveld, a Catholic Boarding School, when in 1956 he reported to the police that he was been abused by a priest. As punishment for reporting this sexual abuse he was forced to undergo a surgical castration.

Henk Heithuis was attending Harreveld (school photo), a Catholic Boarding School, when in 1956 he reported to the police that he was been abused by a priest.

The Daily Mail Online reported:

The newspaper investigation also revealed that government inspectors were aware that young men were being castrated while in Catholic-run psychiatric institutions.

Minutes of meetings held in the 1950's show that inspectors were present when castrations were discussed and that the Catholic staff did not think parents needed to be involved, even if the patients were minors.

There are also allegations that Vic Marijnen, who was a Dutch Prime Minister from 1963-65, had links to the case.

Not only was he a rising star in his political party, he was also vice-chairman of the Dutch Catholic child protection agency,.

Most importantly, in 1956, he was the chairman of the Gelderland children's home where Heithuis and other children were abused.

He intervened to have prison sentences dropped against several priests convicted of abusing children.

The commission said it did not report on the actions of Vic Marijnen because 'the case was unmistakably tied to circumstances which could be traced back to an individual person.'

Speaking of his findings Dohmen said the cases could 'no longer be traced.' '

There will be many more. But the question is whether those boys, now old men, will want to tell their story,' he added.

Dutch MPs are going to call for a parliamentary investigation into the allegations.

'I am shocked that boys were being castrated in the 1950s,' said Khadija Arib, a Labour MP. (End of Daily Mail report)

Over the years, castration was thought of as a viable form of ending homosexuality. In Nazi Germany this was one way of dealing with homosexuals. In the United States, the brutal form of a cure usually was not castration but lobotomies.

What Is the History of Marriage Anyway?

The movement for marriage equality in the United States stands on the shoulders of a centuries-long Chinese tradition, according to new information published by Rainbow Rumpus, the online magazine for kids and teens with LGBT parents. The article, visible at http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/kids/golden-orchid-society, details the history of marriages between female silk makers who then adopted female children.

"This information sheds new light on the history of LGBT-headed families and the role that traditional marriage has played in supporting those families," said Laura Matanah, Executive Director of Rainbow Rumpus. "The two million children growing up with same sex parents in the United States today will receive a wide variety of rights and protections when same-sex marriage is legalized. It's important for them—and for all of us—to know about this history."

A related storybook for children, "Grandpa Dragon and My Peach Tree Moms," is available for free download at http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/htm/printable.htm. The delightful tale shares the story of Bao, a young girl being raised by an aging dragon. Grandpa Dragon decides he must find her a human family, and the two embark on a search for the right parents. The book contains questions and activities to help children explore related themes such as family relationships, fabric making, and dragon stories from a variety of cultural traditions.

The article and the book are both written by author Rene Ohana. Grandpa Dragon is the sixth title in Rainbow Rumpus's Printable Picture Book Series. Each book tells a story about a child with lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender parents and gives parents and teachers tools for talking about family diversity. Rainbow Rumpus's website also has a variety of articles written by and for kids and teens addressing the issue of marriage equality.

About Rainbow Rumpus

Rainbow Rumpus is the primary publisher of LGBT family fiction in the United States, publishing more new fiction each year than all other publishers combined. Noted authors Marion Dane Bauer (Newbery Award), Nancy Garden (Margaret A. Edwards Award), Gregory Maguire (author of Wicked), and Jacqueline Woodson (Newbery honor) sit on the organization's author advisory board. Rainbow Rumpus executive director, Laura Matanah, a former elementary school teacher, was named a top-ten educator in the United States by Curve, the nation's best-selling lesbian magazine. Visit www.rainbowrumpus.org for more information.

Contact: Laura Matanah, 612.721.6442, lauramatanah@rainbowrumpus.org

Justice Dept. Responds to Harrisburg Call for Investigation

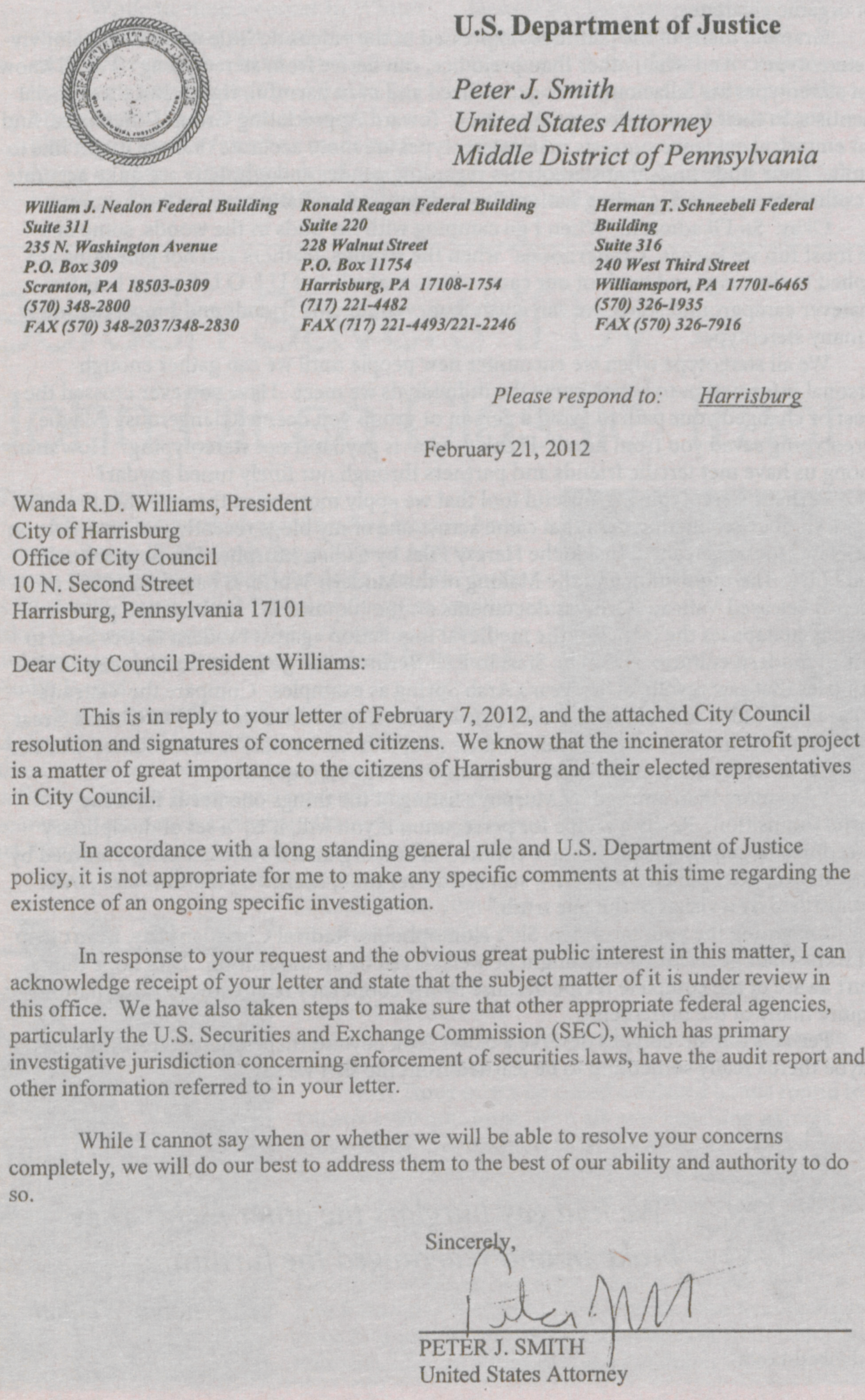
In a letter released March 20, Peter Smith, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, responded to Harrisburg City Council's request for a federal investigation of the financial dealings related to the financing of the retrofit of the Harrisburg Incinerator, according to City Council member Brad Koplinski.

Koplinski called for the investigation in January after the release of The Harrisburg Authority's (THA) Forensic Audit. The THA forensic audit of a series of financial transactions is available on the authority's web site www.hbgauthority.com.

In the letter (see below), Smith acknowledged that the issue was of "great importance to the citizens of Harrisburg." While he said that it was inappropriate for him to make any specific comments regarding the existence of an ongoing specific investigation, he did state "that the subject matter of it is under review" in his office and has provided the forensic audit to the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal agencies.

Koplinski said that the letter is encouraging.

"This is encouraging news that the federal government is listening to the citizens of Harrisburg. They want all the answers as to how and why the financing of the Incinerator Project and other financial dealings resulted in our city owing over $300 million for this botched and shaky financial deal. Only federal subpoena power will allow the people to get the complete answers as to what happened," Koplinski said.



U.S. Department of Justice

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United States Attorney
Middle District of Pennsylvania

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Please respond to: *Harrisburg*

February 21, 2012

Wanda R.D. Williams, President
City of Harrisburg
Office of City Council
10 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear City Council President Williams:

This is in reply to your letter of February 7, 2012, and the attached City Council resolution and signatures of concerned citizens. We know that the incinerator retrofit project is a matter of great importance to the citizens of Harrisburg and their elected representatives in City Council.

In accordance with a long standing general rule and U.S. Department of Justice policy, it is not appropriate for me to make any specific comments at this time regarding the existence of an ongoing specific investigation.

In response to your request and the obvious great public interest in this matter, I can acknowledge receipt of your letter and state that the subject matter of it is under review in this office. We have also taken steps to make sure that other appropriate federal agencies, particularly the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which has primary investigative jurisdiction concerning enforcement of securities laws, have the audit report and other information referred to in your letter.

While I cannot say when or whether we will be able to resolve your concerns completely, we will do our best to address them to the best of our ability and authority to do so.

Sincerely,

PETER J. SMITH
United States Attorney

Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus June 8-10

FAMILY JEWELS

Presented by the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus, "Family Jewels" runs June 8-9, 8 p.m. and June 10, 2 p.m. at Theatre Harrisburg's Krevsky Production Center, 513 Hurlock St., Harrisburg. General admission is $20.

There comes a time in everyone's life when you pull out that dusty box, open the lid and reminisce with all the treasured souvenirs that make up your family history. And so the time has come for the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus to show off some of its "family jewels" amassed in the vault of its repertoire.

Gleaming gems, carefully selected from the past 25 years of HGMC shows, on display again for your enjoyment and amusement. Come experience favorites from the past in all their sparkling brilliance as well as a couple of new jewels for the family tiara, all sung in the style that only the HGMC can do.

Info: http://www.harrisburgmenschorus.org

Bel Canto Lyric Opera Co. of Phila. Performs May 20

The Bel Canto Lyric Opera Company of Philadelphia will be performing a concert at Faith Presbyterian Church, 1801 Colonial Road, Harrisburg, May 20, 5:30 p.m. Founded by artistic director Marianne Casiello, the organization helps to sustain and promote the best in Italian music tradition. The acclaimed company performs in the Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York areas. The musical group is comprised of Philadelphia Orchestra members. Some of the group's singers have earned high award such as the International Pavarotti Competition. In addition to opera selections, singers will perform Neapolitan songs such as Core'Ngrato, Santa Lucia Lutana, Maria, Maria and Rondine al Nido. Salvatore Scarpa, assistant director of the Philadelphia Ballet will be conducting the 23 piece orchestra, chorus and soloists.Tickets are $20.00/$25.00 at the door. Info: saralee.riggs@gmail.com; www.lifeinfaith.org.

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Out of Town

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El Siboney (elsiboneyrestaurant.com), with its simple ambience, is the place in town for humble, stick-to-your-ribs Cuban fare. As for traditional Cuban sandwiches, tiny 5 Brothers Grocery (http://5brothersgrocery.tripod.com) - on a side street in the historic district - serves the best around.

Bar-Hopping

Most the town's several gay bars are along the main drag, Duval Street. Here, the La-Te-Da (lateda.com) guest house has a poolside bar, an intimate piano bar, and a much-beloved cabaret. Down a few blocks, the New Orleans-inspired Bourbon Street Pub (bourbonstpub.com) is a sauce-y spot with a small bar up front with cocktail tables, a larger outdoor bar in back (along with a lively pool area and hot tub), and video screens galore. It's part of the sexually charged (and very friendly) New Orleans Guest House (neworleanshousekw.com) complex. The same owners run the lovably raffish 801 Bar (801bourbon.com), Key West's definitive neighborhood hangout since the 1970s. There's almost always a crowd of gossipy locals around the bar. The adjacent One Saloon caters mostly to leather-and-Levi's types and is reached through 801's back door. Aqua Nightclub (aquakeywest.com), which was handsomely remodeled in 2011, is best known for its raucous drag shows and an impressive dance floor with high-tech laser-and-sound shows, and a cozy video bar.

Where to Stay

Key West has a number of inns that cater either exclusively or predominantly to the gay market. One of the best is Alexander's (alexanderskeywest.com), a long-popular gay resort with the relatively unusual policy of being both clothing-optional (on the two upper sundecks) and welcoming to both women and men. Aromatic tropical flowers, sundecks, rattan and wicker furnishings, and sparkling tiled bathrooms impart Alexander's with a classy but casual look. In addition to the aforementioned New Orleans Guest House, the town's other favorite accommodation for guys seeking cruise-y adventures but still wanting upscale and extremely well-maintained accommodations is the iconic Island House (islandhousekeywest.com). Day passes are available, with access to bar as well as the 24-hour heated pool, indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, gym, sauna, steam room, and erotic-male-video lounge.

Most of the town's men's resorts are along Fleming Street, the Historic District's main drag. Here you'll find Equator (equatorresort.com), which has plush rooms with contemporary Caribbean-influenced furniture. The lovely grounds include a compact but pretty pool and a nice sundeck. Nearby, the largest gay resort in town comprises three distinct and very social properties - the Oasis, Coral Tree Inn, and Coconut Grove (keywest-allmale.com)- operated by the same management. Drawing a predominantly male crowd, Big Ruby's (bigrubys.com) is less than a block from Duval Street, hidden behind high walls from noise and street traffic. The grounds feature towering palm trees and fragrant flowers, and an abundance of sundecks. Rooms are warm, contemporary, spotless.

Key West has dozens of other terrific places to stay among mainstream properties, from historic inns to posh resorts - they all readily roll out the rainbow carpet. A favorite among the former is the atmospheric Cypress House (cypresshousekw.com), a rambling compound that includes a historic mansion and two Bahamian conch-style cottages - 22 rooms total. With a central location, reasonable rates, and a super-friendly staff, this gay-owned property is a great find. Among larger hotels and resorts, the Crowne Plaza Key West (laconchakeywest.com) on historic Duval Street, the elegant Hyatt Resort & Spa (keywest.hyatt.com), and the swanky Westin Resort & Marina (westinkeywestresort.com) are all great bets.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website GayTravel.About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA.

Gay Crazy?

In an article by Stephen Gray, Pink News (the largest LGBT news service in Europe) has picked "The Weirdest and Most Unexpected LGBT Stories of 2011". The collection contains surprises or jolts memories of the old stories. Here are the stories that Gray picked:

10. Woman attacks "lesbian" Gauguin painting

Gauguin might not be for everyone, but one museum visitor in Washington, DC reacted particularly badly to the "evil homosexual" element she perceived in his 1899 work Two Tahitian Women.

9. George Michael says the gays on Eastenders are scaring children

George Michael employed some pretty colorful language in his critique of the gay characters on soap opera Eastenders. The musician took to Twitter to say the BBC drama was "scaring the shit out of children", with one being repeatedly beaten up and another disowned by his Muslim family.

8. Rugby player suffers stroke and "wakes up gay"

(We hate when this happens.) A rugby player who suffered a stroke after a gym accident woke up gay and became a hairdresser, he said this year. Chris Birch said "It sounds strange but when I came round I immediately felt different [...] I was definitely gay."

7. World's first gay beer launched

A beer believed to be the first spe-

continued on page 31

BlogWatch

By Greg King

All the Stuff We Say!

Thanks to the latest meme to sweep through my favorite blogs I now have a better understanding and newfound acceptance of subsections of our culture that I never before grasped. Sh*t People Say videos on Youtube are the Crip Notes of cultural immersion without the cost of a plane ticket, strange beds in alien homes or feigned humanitarianism.

In about an average of two minutes you can learn everything there is to know about Girls, Miami Girls, Black Girls, Gay Guys, Gay Guys with Straight Guy Friends, Lesbians, Brides, White Girls, People in LA, College Freshmen, Asian Dads, New Yorkers, Long Island People, Frat Guys, Spanish Girls, Bears, Rednecks, Christians with Jewish Friends, Asian Moms, White Girls With Arab Girlfriends, Yogis, and gangsters to name only a few. The list goes on, but I'm sure you've got it. All of our myriad of groups we are so inclined to divide ourselves into are easily and readily illuminated on the internet by the seemingly trite things we constantly say.

Thanks to Youtube I now know that Indian girls hate drama, like hookah and cry a lot. College freshmen have no idea what their majoring in and like cheap beer. Los Angeles actors write screen plays, have strong desires for SAG Cards, have something big tomorrow and just love sleepovers with producers. Jewish girls only eat diet food, are stunning, and drive high-end German cars. Hipsters buy only organic food but, oddly enough, not organic cigarettes.

Granted, many of the platitudes expressed in the videos do little more than paint vivid stereotypes. And what, other than prejudice, can derive from stereotyping? We all know that stereotypes are fallacious, over-generalized and even harmful, right? But three social scientists, in their book Stereotype Accuracy: Toward Appreciating Group Differences, find that empirical evidence suggests many stereotypes are more accurate than we might like to admit. Their study finds that stereotypes regarding gender and ethnicity are quite accurate but other stereotypes regarding nationality and political affiliation are far less accurate.

Okay. So I'll admit it. When I go camping with my buds in the woods, some of the most fun we have is "Crafternoons" when the sequins, feathers and hot glue guns are applied to the twigs and trash of our camp site to make FABULOUS party hats for whatever campground soirée we can crash that evening. My friends and I most definitely fit many stereotypes.

We all stereotype when we encounter new people until we can gather enough personal information to better know the individuals we meet. Have you ever crossed the street or changed your path to avoid a person or group you deemed dangerous? Maybe stereotyping saved you from harm. Frankly, what is gaydar if not stereotyping? How many among us have met terrific friends and partners through our finely tuned gaydar?

Perhaps stereotyping is a useful tool that we apply more often than we care to admit.

Another fascinating item that came across one of my blogs recently was an article on The New Humanist called, Inside the Heresy Files by Cullen Murphy. His newest book, God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World, is based on 1000's of recently released Vatican Archives documents on the Inquisition. In these two pieces Murphy juxtaposes the tactics of the medieval inquisition against modern tactics used to control modern cultures. Take the Stasi in East Berlin or the government response in the countries that saw revolts in last year's Arab Spring as examples. Compare the Vatican's 400 year old Index of Forbidden Books (the last book was added in 1940) to China's Great Firewall on the internet which insulates their people from "radical" outside ideas. Our current war on terror fits in many ways the outline for a good inquisition.

I was more than amused by Murphy's listing of the things one needs for a successful inquisition. Really a recipe for persecution if you will, it is, "a set of disciplinary procedures targeting specific groups, codified in law, organized systematically, enforced by surveillance, exemplified by severity, sustained over time, backed by institutional power and justified by a vision of the one truth."

Imagining the youtube video, Sh*t Homophobic, Radical Christians Say, I can't help but think their goals for society might be well served by an inquisition. Let's hope they aren't aware of the complete recipe because by my count they're already working hard to acquire many of the ingredients.

Perhaps our stereotypes deserve a closer look beyond their inherent insidiousness. Maybe there's really something to be learned from the sh*t we say.

> *"We had gay burglars the other night. They broke in and rearranged the furniture."*
>
> *~ Robin Williams*
>
> thinkexist.com

Meeting Gay Icon Edmund White

By Frank Pizzoli

Sometimes fate is kind. I'd wanted to interview Edmund White for some time and wondered how to bring that about in an impromptu IM to Key West friend Chris Tittel, writer and playwright (A Live and Lusty Matter, Mammy's Pantry, True North, about the Boy Scouts, currently working on The Chip System). That was 2007, and Tittel answered that he was having dinner with White the next evening. He'd ask on my behalf. The dinner fell through but not the interview (LLR, Summer 2207).

Although I'm not a starchy guy, I do rely on antiquated manners no longer taught. So off went a warm but respectfully formal email that White answered in less than 35 minutes. His simple lower case, one line note contained a date, time, location, and kudos on my writer's resume. We were strangers.

While turning a corner in White's apartment building not sure of my direction, he stuck his head out the door, beaming a huge smile. Once inside, he offered to make us a pot of tea with a blend sent from a friend he made while living in Paris. "And some dried fruit?" he asked. He made me feel like if I'd said "No thanks, but how about a grilled cheese sandwich?" he'd have made me one and ask how dark did I like the bread grilled.

I moved to his living room to set up a recorder with him talking to me from the kitchen. His partner Michael scurried in and out with plastic baskets. "We're doing laundry today. If his passing through will be a bother we can wait," White asked. It wasn't. When he brought out the tea and dried fruit and then sat down in his chair I realized he was just as excited as I was. My Q&A was next to me on the couch. White said he'd glanced at but hadn't read the questions. "I like these things to be fresh," he explained.

Fumbling with the recorder, I finally got it working. "I'm sitting here in the apartment of Edmund Wilson…," I said, and then froze. "We'd both be in trouble if that were true," White quipped and we both laughed. He is human. Despite the lacerating criticisms he's endured – he's this, he's that; he's not this or not that; he's not every mother's dream, as if any one of us is. And who among us wouldn't want his writer's resume?

I can't possibly know if what he's written will endure. Neither can White. I am glad he wrote what he did, when he wrote whatever he wrote, especially his novels. That was my time, my city, in the many ways NYC was, and remains, for so many others. If journalism is the first draft of history, novels written as the clock ticks away on current events may be the second draft. As far as writing novels, I'm with Somerset Maugham: There's three rules to writing a novel but no one knows what they are.

Link: www.lambdaliterary.org

Edmund White, left, talks about his work and current novel Jack Holmes & His Friend with Frank Pizzoli, right.

Central Voice Photo

Screen Savers II by John DiLeo Classic Tract

By Frank Pizzoli

Having just finished proof reading his new book - Screen Savers II: My Grab Bag of Classic Movies – former Central Voice writer John DiLeo said the book is filled with "many frills". Frills and the extra "inside take" on classic movies sets DiLeo's work apart from the more usual rewritten reportage about Hollywood's Studio Period.

Screen Savers II is DiLeo's three-part "grab bag of classic movies," beginning with his extensive essays about ten remarkable and underappreciated movies, as in the first Screen Savers, and representing a variety of genres and stars such as Barbara Stanwyck, James Stewart, Ginger Rogers, and DiLeo favorite Joel McCrea.

Part Two collects and categorizes posts from DiLeo's classic-film blog screensaversmovies.com, containing his musings on classics revisited, sleepers and stinkers, films old and new, plus his memorial tributes to Hollywood notables.

Part Three might be called a delayed bonus round to DiLeo's 1999 quiz book, with all-new matching quizzes. Can you identify the films in which a character writes a book titled Hummingbird Hill; Fred Astaire dances with Betty Hutton; a character named Sean Regan is important but never seen?

The cover of the book has a sensational photo of Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant in Holiday (1938), a film featured in the book's mid-section. Plus ten other glorious film stills inside, including pictures of Alan Ladd, Joan Fontaine, Claudette Colbert, and Randolph Scott.

John DiLeo

SHOT
SCREEN SAVERS II
MY GRAB BAG OF CLASSIC MOVIES
John DiLeo

Gay Crazy

continued from page 30

cifically marketed to gay consumers was launched in Mexico, Colombia and Japan in February of 2011. Distributors said they had "great respect with the idea of offering a product directed to the gay-lesbian community that has been ignored for too long but is important and very demanding".

6. Anti-gay US politician was a secret sperm donor to lesbians

An American politician who has campaigned against gay marriage was revealed to be a sperm donor to lesbian couples in Australia. Bill Johnson's wife could not conceive, so he turned to sperm donation because he believed reproduction was "as basic a human need as eating". He had not told his wife.

5. Five Thousand year old "transgender" skeleton found in Prague

Archaeologists in the Czech Republic dug up what they believed to be the remains of a 5,000-year-old transgender person in April. The male skeleton, from between 2900 and 2500BC is from the Corded Ware culture of the Copper Age, and was buried as a woman.

4. Belgian footballer comes out and becomes a gay porn star

While the professional footballing world suffers a dearth of out gay players, Jonathan de Falco, formerly of Racing Mechelen and Oud-Heverlee Leuven, took coming out to another level by launching a career in gay porn.

3. Thomas Jane used to "let a guy buy him a sandwich"

In October, Thomas Jane, the star of HBO series 'Hung', revealed he worked as a male prostitute when he first arrived in Hollywood: "I wasn't averse to going down to Santa Monica Boulevard and letting a guy buy me a sandwich. Know what I mean?"

2. Toronto Zoo's gay penguins are forced to separate, then one turns straight

Buddy and Pedro seemed to capture the imagination of the world this year, when Toronto Zoo announced it had to separate the 'gay' penguins as part of a breeding programme. We were thrilled to hear the pair would be "reunited in the spring".

But the story did not end there. In December, Buddy, the older of the two, found a new, female, mate.

1. US woman "disgusted by gays" to leave the house

If you were out and about this past Christmas, spare a thought for Stacy Trasancos, a Massachusetts woman who said this year she was too "disgusted" by gays to leave her home. The stay-at-home mother of seven said she was "outnumbered" by gays. On her blog, she said she knew "what would happen if I asked two men or two women to stop displaying, right in front of me and my children, that they live in sodomy.

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Watch for Equality PA & Zach Wahls Initiative

You all remember Zach Wahls? And his incredibly powerful testimony that his youtube video made in which he defended his two moms, Jackie and Terry, from a constitutional amendment in Iowa that would have reversed a marriage equality ruling, electrified thousands. Wahls and Equality PA will soon be working together in the coming weeks on an exciting initiative.

Equality PA, Wahls and his moms all think that we are coming to a tipping point and will partner with the statewide organization to launch "Out to Dinner," a national project that involves an evening of everybody's two favorite things: friends and food. Watch for:

Out to Dinner, which has a simple goal: to put faces and stories to the political realities of the struggle for LGBT rights. The initiative is based on two simple ideas. First, it's much harder to accept or understand ideas and people we don't know. Second, there's no better way to get to know someone or learn something new than over a meal. The Out to Dinner initiative asks LGBT couples and families to invite a straight ally couple with which they are close to join this project and host a dinner as part of a larger national event. As a partner, Equality PA asks Pennsylvanians throughout the state to make this commitment. The ally couples will then be asked to invite to the dinner some of their friends who are still on the fence when it comes to marriage equality and other LGBT rights. It's important to note, however, that this is not a setup or a gimmick. Out to Dinner will not be hosted solely with the intent of talking about politics or religion, but rather, in the hopes of breaking (delicious!) bread while having an enjoyable and relaxing evening.

Join the intiative: OutToDinner.org.

Government-run

continued from page 4

program cuts, taxpayer golf is a budgetary double bogey we just can't afford.

In contrast, Dauphin County sold off its Donald Ross Golf Course in 2002 and avoided the massive debt that buried Dauphin Highlands. For municipalities unable to sell their courses, managing them in partnership with private sector companies is the next best option. Public-private partnerships enable private sector firms to run all or part of a government-owned property, lowering costs, minimizing risk, and enhancing services.

Many municipal courses already lease on-site restaurants to local small businesses with great success. Landscaping and building maintenance are other areas ideal for public-private partnerships. Alternately, larger companies that specialize in golf course management can take over operations wholesale and increase revenue in ways city governments can't.

One such company, Billy Casper Golf, owns or operates more than 127 facilities in 27 states, including seven in Pennsylvania, and uses economies of scale to drive down costs. The City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, partnered with them on two failing courses, and net operating income grew by more than $1 million in less than two years. Tulsa's growing liability was converted to a budgetary birdie for the city while enhancing the golf experience for the average player.

Ultimately, private sector companies consistently perform more efficiently than their government-run counterparts. Based on a review of more than 100 studies, the Reason Foundation conservatively estimates savings from privatization at 5 to 20 percent. Under private management, golf courses boost the number of rounds played, purchase equipment in bulk, pay market rather than inflated government wages, and invest in and expand their offerings. Municipalities tend to put off needed repairs and improvements during a budget crunch, alienating customers and creating a future crisis.

But let there be no doubt, the best way for municipalities to avoid risking another Dauphin Highlands debacle is to stop competing with the private sector for golfers' business in the first place. Government intrusion is handicapping the golf business by forcing private golf club owners to fund their own competition via taxes. And for non-golfers everywhere, please ask yourself why your government is forcing you to subsidize a luxury game service used by less than 11 percent of the population.

Unfortunately, municipal golf courses are only one example of the many private industries governments compete with every day. In these difficult economic times, if a business can be found in the yellow pages of a phone book, government shouldn't be the owner unfairly competing with private enterprise by using taxpayer dollars to hire and manage public employees. Before local governments concede the hole they have created, it's time taxpayers get a monetary mulligan by ending subsidized golf.

John Bouder is a research fellow with the Commonwealth Foundation at www.CommonwealthFoundation.org.

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LGBT health

By Cassandra Weber, CRNP
Alder Health Services

Transexual Health Issues Outlined

I recently had the honor of speaking at The Keystone Conference, A Celebration of Gender Diversity, hosted by TransCentralPA. The conference featured social and educational programs for both members and supporters of the transgender community. This was my first time attending the annual conference and I was truly impressed with the diversity of classes, attendees, facilities, and community. Of course as a health care provider, I was drawn to the educational classes discussing health care, including surgical options and the new World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) guidelines.

Alder Health Services
Our Health, Our Community

In my first article, I outlined the Top Ten Health Issues from the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) for transgendered people, lesbian and bisexual women, and gay and bisexual men. The recent Keystone Conference has prompted me to further detail transgender health in this article.

The top ten health issues for transgendered people, as identified by GLMA, include access to health care, openly sharing your health history, hormones, cardiovascular health, cancer, sexually transmitted infections (diseases) and safe sex, alcohol and tobacco, depression and anxiety, injectable silicone, and fitness.

Access to health care is impacted by many factors including insurance coverage, availability of culturally competent providers, and willingness to access care. Obviously, without insurance, accessing health care is difficult. Few providers offer sliding scale fees and those that do are usually located in urban areas. Even with insurance, many policies have exclusions for trans health care, such as hormone therapy and surgery. Additionally, insurance policies may prevent patients from getting appropriate screenings because the testing ordered does not match the patient's gender marker with the insurance company. For example, a trans woman still needs screening for prostate cancer. However if her gender with the insurance company is female, the company may not cover the screening or generate complications difficult for the patient to maneuver through. Trans patients also lack access to providers who are knowledgeable about trans health and willing to provide quality care in a compassionate environment. This contributes to the fear of seeking care due to previous negative experiences.

This also contributes to the second issue identified by GLMA, openly sharing your health history. Many transpatients are hesitant to share the health histories due to previous negative experiences or the misunderstanding that past surgeries and current treatments will not impact their current health needs. Being open and honest, although potential scary, is paramount to receiving appropriate health care.

Hormones do carry risks, however are unlikely to cause health problems when taken under the supervision of a health care provider where both patient and provider monitor for side effects and potential risks. Hormones from the internet are not safe and taking too much or not monitoring levels can actually cause the opposite effects patients are looking for.

Cardiovascular health, or the heart and blood vessel health, is impacted by obesity, higher rates of substance abuse, and possibly by hormones. Some trans people may fear discussing early signs of heart disease or stroke with their providers due to fear their hormones will be stopped.

Cancer screenings are important even after surgeries and especially with hormone use as cancer risks still exist. For example, a trans man has a lower risk of breast cancer but still has a risk, even after top surgery. Therefore, communication with a health care provider and routine screenings are important to find and treat cancer early for the best outcomes.

Sexually transmitted infections are another issue, and trans youth are at increased risk due to higher rates of homelessness and survival sex. Trans people may also not practice safer sex as they explore their desired gender and sexuality.

As I mentioned earlier, trans individuals are at a higher risk for substance abuse, including alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Stress and discrimination are strong stressors which can lead to substance abuse, impacting your overall health and wellbeing.

Substance abuse is also increased due to the higher rates of depression and anxiety as trans people attempt to deal with the multiple stressors they incur. Trans individuals face higher rates of suicide, making treatment for depression imperative. If you or someone you know seems to be really struggling with their stressors or depression, get professional mental health, it saves lives.

Silicone injections are used for instant curves, however the silicone is often not medical grade and filled with contaminants. Sharing needles at "plumping parties" is also a danger in spreading hepatitis and HIV. Long-term dangers include the silicone moving throughout the body and the possibility of infection requiring large amounts of tissue to be removed from the body in an attempt to remove the infected silicone causing disfigurement and even death.

Finally, fitness, including both diet and exercise. As I mentioned in the last article, exercise is a great coping mechanism for stress and helps to keep your heart healthy. Diet and exercise contribute to your overall health and well-being. If you are considering surgery, it can even decrease risks from surgery and decrease healing time after surgery.

I look forward to sharing more about LGBT health with you in my next article!

Cassandra Weber is a certified registered nurse practitioner at Alder Health Services, which specializes in meeting the unique needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and individuals who are struggling with addiction.

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Chaz Bono Honored by GLAAD

GLAAD, the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy and anti-defamation organization, has honored Chaz Bono with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award. Bono received the award as an openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender media professional who has made a significant difference in promoting equality.

In 2009, Bono revealed that he is transgender, and in 2011 he shared his life in the documentary Becoming Chaz, which was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award and three Emmy Awards. Also in 2011, Bono competed on the thirteenth season of ABC's hit show, Dancing With The Stars. Bono has written three books including Transition, which is his groundbreaking account of his transition from female to male.

"Chaz has opened the door for countless others, reshaping the way Americans think about transgender people today," said Mike Thompson, Acting President of GLAAD. "His bold leadership in sharing his story as a transgender man, as well as his tireless work to secure equality for every American, embodies the values of GLAAD's Stephen F. Kolzak Award."

Chaz Bono

2012 Marriage Proposals on Ballot

If the Maryland State same-sex marriage law stays on the books, there will be five marriage initiatives on the ballot for the November General Election. The law is being challenged through a potential voter referendum.

After signing into law, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley spoke at a conference sponsored by Mount Rainier-based New Ways Ministry, which advocates full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the church and society. The group supported the same-sex marriage legislation, which now faces a referendum drive challenge. Baltimore's Catholic archdiocese issued a statement noting that the group does not speak for the church.

"I'm not here as a Catholic, I'm here as the governor for all of Maryland," O'Malley said. "Each one of us in the public arena brings with us our own perspectives, our own traditions, our own faith traditions, our own ethnic backgrounds. What we hope and what we should expect of all our leaders is when they look at the Constitution is to protect rights equally among all people."

If the Maryland challenge survives, then the LGBT community will face five ballots measures in the 2012 election come November. Two of them will be defensive and three will be to keep/establish marriage equality.

Here are the five states and a quick summary:

MAINE: On the ballot in November will be a measure to institute marriage equality in the state of Maine. Marriage equality has been a battleground issue in this state for at least three election cycles. The LGBT community and its allies are well organized. The last election was a reasonably close one and a great deal has changed since then. They will always need financial assistance but they seem in great shape organizationally. LGBT Americans have a real opportunity to make Maine our ninth marriage equality state.

MARYLAND: The measure will be to overturn the passage by the legislature of marriage equality in November. The state has good resources both in the Washington suburbs and Baltimore. Maryland has one of the highest African American populations in the United States (30%) and they will vote heavily in the fall because of President Obama. While we are in very good shape with that community's leadership, the faith leaders are more of a challenge. You know that NOM will focus on them heavily. This is where we will win or lose in the state.

MINNESOTA: In November there will be a measure to place into the State Constitution an amendment to ban marriage equality. The state has a large progressive base that is very energized by the issue but the latest polls have it running almost dead even between no and yes. Their major problem is that the focus nationally will be on protecting marriage equality and adding states (Maine, Maryland and Washington) instead of a more defensive battle.

NORTH CAROLINA: The Republicans have placed on the ballot a state constitutional amendment similar to Minnesota's. In an effort to 'fix the game' they have placed it on the May primary ballot where there is only a Republican Primary for President. Meanwhile the governor has to step down and there might be a Democratic Gubernatorial primary. Because of how the Republican 'rigged the election,' this one is an uphill battle.

WASHINGTON: Like Maryland, this effort will be to save marriage equality recently passed by the legislature. The LGBT community in this state has been working for years for this moment and has successfully faced initiatives so far. The polls are looking good and along with Maine, this might be our best shot.

http://www.davidmixner.com/2012/02/lgbt-five-lgbt-marriage-equality-ballot-measures-in-2012.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+DavidMixnerCom+%28DavidMixner.com%29

Lancaster events

MAY 12
Annual Chicken BBQ and Craft & Vendor Fair
The Occupational Development Center in Lancaster is a great non-profit organization that provides opportunities for developmentally disabled individuals, and they hold a few fundraisers throughout the year that are a lot of fun for the community.

MAY 18 - 19
Annual Rhubarb Festival
The world's only Rhubarb Car Derby is held at the annual Rhubarb Festival in Kitchen Kettle Village, Intercourse, Pennsylvania, near Lancaster.

JUNE 1 - 10
Great Eastern Invitational Microbrewery Festival
The Great Eastern Invitational Microbrewery Festival is a must-see for beer lovers!

JUNE 12
Puerto Rican Day Parade
Puerto Rican Day Parade takes place in Lancaster to celebrate the culture of Puerto Rican.

book review

By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System

THE LIBRARY
DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
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Wrestlers, Runners, Cyclists & Waiter / Caterers

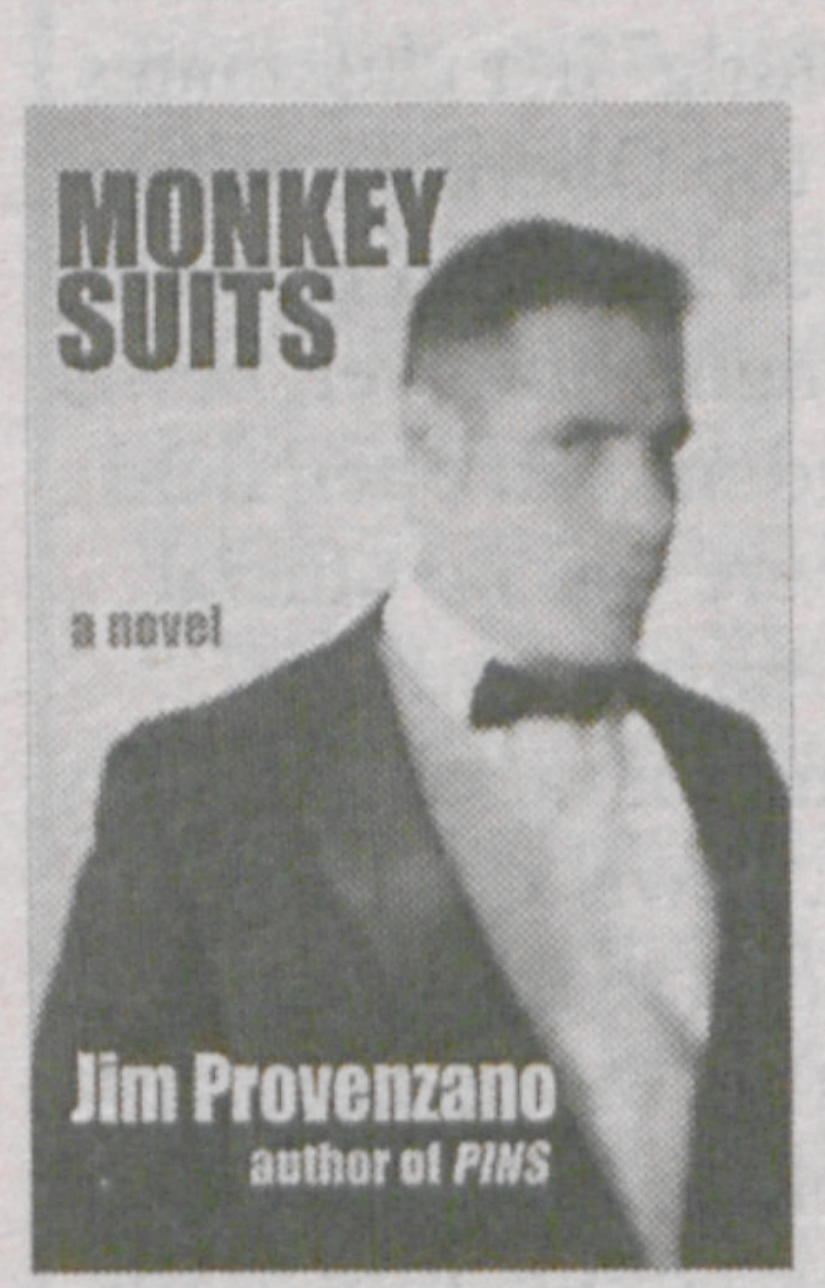
What more could you want from one man?

Jim Provenzano is the author of the novels 'PINS,' 'Monkey Suits,' 'Cyclizen,' the Lambda Literary Award finalist 'Every Time I Think of You,' the stage adaptation of 'PINS,' as well as numerous published short stories and freelance articles. An editor with the 'Bay Area Reporter,' he lives in San Francisco. www.myrmidude.org

PINS
JIM PROVENZANO

Every Time I Think of You
a novel
Jim Provenzano

"In my first novel, PINS, a sports accident is treated as more of a metaphoric experience," the author says. "In Every Time I Think of You, I wanted to more fully explore the aspect of permanent injury, but from the perspective of someone who's loved him beforehand. How does their relationship change? The difficulties they encounter are the story, not only because of what happens, but other peoples' expectations and interference in allowing them to be together, as well as their own doubts and fears."



Cyclizen
a novel
Jim Provenzano
author of PINS and Monkey Suits

The cater waiter is the ultimate illusion; queer posing as straight, liberal posing as conservative, hedonist posing as eunuch. In his second novel, Jim Provenzano explores Manhattan society life from the servants' point of view. Monkey Suits serves up a compassionate and witty tale of 1980s class warfare, and the romantic entanglements of a quintet of tuxedo-clad waiters.

Italian Lake Concerts Back for Summer

Riverside United Neighbors (RUN) announced plans to present two summer concerts at Italian Lake, 3rd & Division Sts., Harrisburg. The Greater Harrisburg Concert Band is scheduled to perform July 15 and a unique Contemporary Folk group comprised of Kevin Neidig, Henry Koretzky, Ken Gehret & Bruce Campbell July 22. Both concerts are scheduled for 7:30 pm and are free to the public with ample parking available on city streets surrounding the park.

There are numerous park benches located in front of the park's bandstand, however, the public is encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the concerts from the bandstand plaza and the expansive grassy areas adjacent to it.

As and added attraction to the beauty of Italian Lake Park and the musical performances, artist members of the Art Association of Harrisburg have also been invited to exhibit their works during each concert. The rain location for each concert will be the Hadee Mosque of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, (formerly known as Lakeside Church) located at 245 Division Street, Harrisburg PA 17110, across the street from the Lake.

RUN is underwriting concert expenses through private donations and sponsorships from residents and businesses from the Riverside neighborhood and surrounding areas. Information on contributing to this popular Harrisburg tradition can be obtained by contacting RUN President, Patricia Waller at (717) 233-5156 or Vice President, M. Claire Powers at (717) 233-6338 on via email: riversideunited-neighbors2012@yahoo.com or on the event website www.riversideconcerts.net.

Riverside United Neighbors or RUN, is a Crime Watch organization, established in 1993, that is working to lower crime and improve the quality of life in Harrisburg's Riverview neighborhood. This neighborhood encompasses an area North Front to North 7th Streets and Division to Vaughn Streets. The Riverside neighborhood is home to 820 households representing over 4,000 residents.

RUN is comprised of approximately 30 citizen volunteers who manage and operate the organization's annual schedule of community events.

Mark your calendar

- Neighborhood Flea Market, May 5
- Riverside Summer Concerts, July 15 & 22
- Community "Night Out" Party, August 7
- Children's Halloween Parade, October 29
- Planned Youth Baseball Project and restoration of the Historic Riverside Firehouse.

Info & updates: www.riversideconcerts.net

(MARY) EDMONIA "WILDFIRE" LEWIS:

A black lesbian who sculpted freedom and independence

By Kevin Trimell Jones
Exclusively for Central Voice
National Gay History Project

Despite her mixed racial/ethnic heritage, she is considered one of a few African-American artists to develop a fan base that crossed racial, ethnic and national boundaries ...

(Mary) Edmonia "Wildfire" Lewis (1843-1911) stands out for her courage and willingness to live a life defined by her own sense of agency and independence. Despite her mixed racial/ethnic heritage, she is considered one of a few African-American artists to develop a fan base that crossed racial, ethnic and national boundaries — and the first to develop a reputation as an acclaimed sculptor, which would later give her access to circles that generally excluded people of color and women. While many have speculated about her sexuality — given her close associations with women and her androgynous style of dress — Lewis was a transformational figure who used her art form to capture the historical legacies of women, African Americans and other figures central to black culture and the American Civil War.

Historians believe that Lewis was born near Albany, N.Y. Her mother was a Chippewa Indian; her father was a freeman of African descent. After her parents' death, Lewis lived with two of her mother's sisters in Niagara Falls and in other parts of New York. There, Lewis took full advantage of her surroundings, spending her time swimming, fishing and learning and participating in Native American customs and traditions. Lewis would later attend Oberlin College in Ohio with the help of her brother who was considered a successful gold miner. By this time, Oberlin College had developed a reputable for promoting diversity and inclusion. It was the nation's first coeducation and interracial college, and had enrolled African Americans along white students since in 1835.

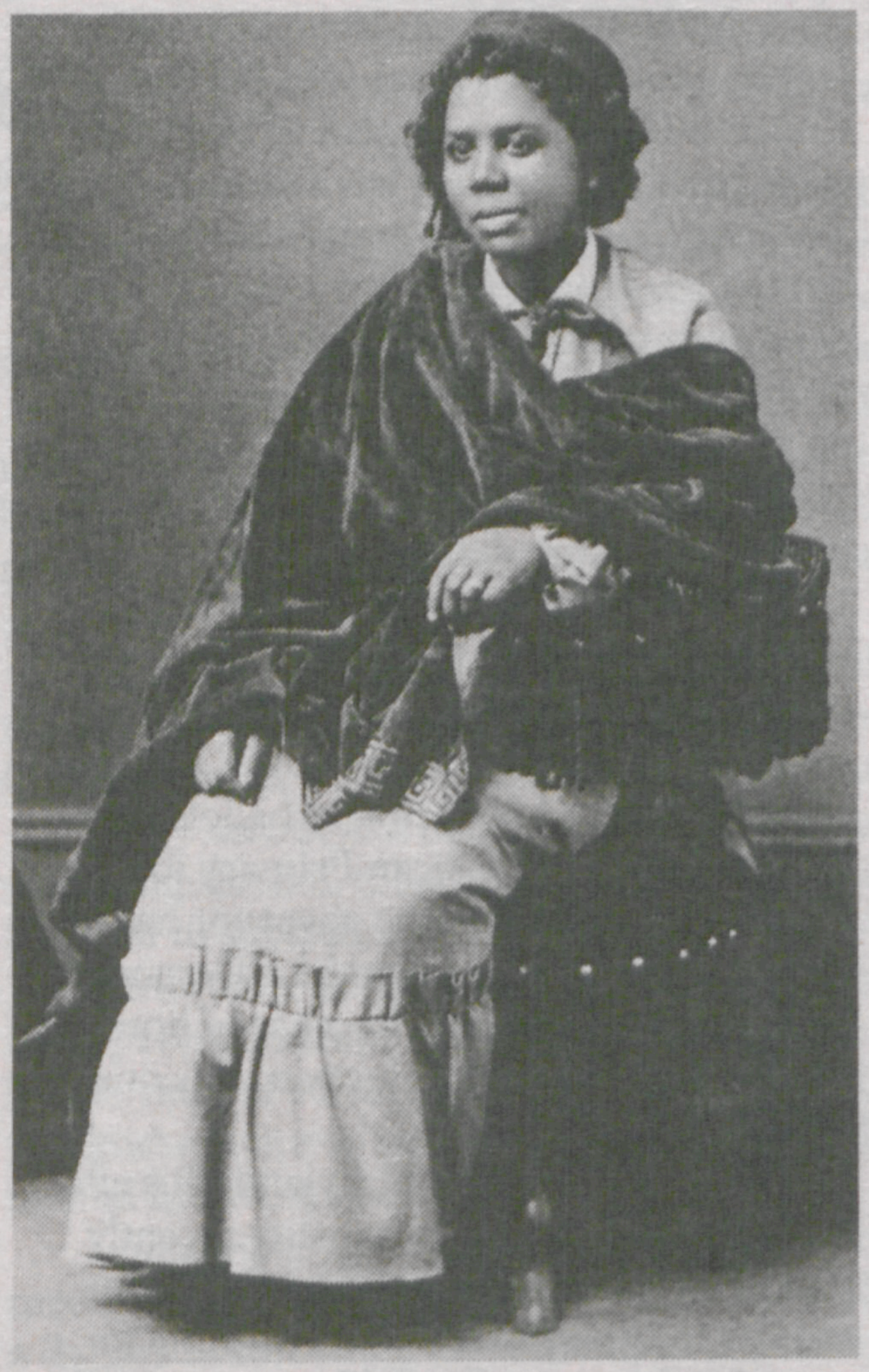
Lewis created notable pieces that today tell the struggles of African Americans and women in varying quests for freedom and independence.

Lewis is believed to have been a part of a few notable, possibly romantic and sexual incidents with other females. An early "peculiar episode" is described in "African American Art and Artist" as taking place at Oberlin College on the morning of Jan. 27, 1862. According to the story, Oberlin College was in recess. Two female friends of Lewis were preparing for an extended sleigh ride with two of their male friends. Before the departure, Lewis invited her females classmates to her room for a "drink of hot spiced wine, which medical testimony later indicated contained an aphrodisiac called cantharides." After the classmates became dangerously ill, suffering from stomach and other physical ailments, Lewis was immediately accused of "poisoning" her classmates. Her relationships with top Oberlin College administrators preserved her from immediate arrest. During the night, however, Lewis was kidnapped, dragged into an open field and brutally beaten. There was no official investigation into the beating, and this nearly shattered the sense of racial harmony in this integrated town. Lewis was spared from criminal charges due to insufficient evidence presented during the preliminary hearing: "... Most people believed that, if Edmonia had in fact served the drug to the young women, her intent was more likely to promote sexual stimulation than to poison."

While this incident likely took a toll on Lewis, she stayed at Oberlin College until she finished her coursework in 1864. She had considered leaving "white society" because she found it too restrictive when compared to her earlier upbringing that honored Native American cultures and traditions. After leaving Ohio, Lewis found herself in Boston, where she would continue her life's journey. Margaret Farrand Thorp, in The New England Quarterly (1959) describes Lewis' early beginnings in Boston with the following:

"The story goes that, entering the strange town alone, she wandered about and finally sat down on the steps of City Hall to munch the dry crackers which was all her slender resources allowed her for lunch. Gazing about her, bewildered but by no means in despair, her eye was caught by Richard Greenough's stature of Benjamin Franklin. A statue of the size of life was something that she had never seen or heard of. That a great man of the past could be made to live for her seemed very wonderful. Could she perhaps learn to perform such as act of creation?"

With letters of recommendation from Oberlin College and addressed to William Lloyd Garrison and other abolitionists, she set out to learn the art of sculpting. These figures would help inspire her creative style and influence her views on independence and personal freedoms.



While living in Boston, Lewis created notable pieces that today tell the struggles of African Americans and women in varying quests for freedom and independence. For example, Lewis designed a medallion of John Brown, a white man and early abolitionist who advocated armed insurrections against other white people to abolish slavery. In 1859, Brown and his interracial coalition of 21 men raided the United States arsenal located at Harpers Ferry, W.V. Lewis was commissioned by Dr. Harriot K. Hunt, Boston's first woman physician, to create a statue of Hygeia, the Greek goddess of health. This statue currently marks Hunt's final resting place in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass. Lewis also created a bust of Col. Robert Gould Shaw, who led the all-black Civil War unit known as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This group of fighters was part of the first group of black men recruited in the North, and made incredible sacrifices for America's independence. The regiment experienced 272 casualties during an assault on Ft. Wagner in South Carolina, including the life of Shaw. His family was delighted with the likeness of the bust. Lewis ultimately sold 100 copies of the Shaw bust during a Soldier's Relief Fair that was held in Boston. The fundraiser helped finance Lewis' trip and eventual relocation from America to Rome. Lewis told The New York Times (Dec. 29, 1878) that she "was practically driven to Rome in order to obtain the opportunities for art-culture, and to find a social atmosphere where [she] was not constantly reminded of my color."

While living in Europe, Lewis further developed her international acclaim by learning Greco-Roman sculpting styles from renowned sculptors living in Europe. This would influence her neoclassical-inspired pieces. In Rome, she joined the circle of American expatriates and artists, including American stage actress and sculptor Charlotte Cushman (also a direct descendant of Pilgrim Robert Cushman), sculptor Harriet Hosmer and other women in their circle. In fact, her friends in Boston encouraged Cushman and Hosmer to accept Lewis into their sisterhood of artists. Novelist Henry James referred to this group derogatorily as the "White Marmorean Flock," as most in the circle were known for having same-sex relationships, including Lewis. These women were highly influential in the way that Lewis carried out her life. According to "Improper Bostonians: Lesbian and Gay History from the Puritans to Playland," "Lewis emulated both the outward attributes of their unconventional, often masculine attire, as well as their aesthetic independence."

While abroad, Lewis received praise from many art critics. There, she began creating sculptors of her heroines, many of whom were from the Bible. Lewis returned to the United States in 1874 with a great amount of notoriety, especially for a woman of mixed heritage and of African descent. Receptions were held in Boston and Philadelphia to welcome her and to showcase her work. In 1876, she was one of a few women sculptors invited to participate and exhibit at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, which was the first official World Fair to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Her work "Death of Cleopatra" was described as original, and unlike any other depictions of Cleopatra from other literary sculptures. Instead, her work captured "death" and "beauty." People often referred to it as "absolutely repellent" despite being able to see the talent required to create the powerful piece. In 1877, she was commissioned by former U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant to develop a bust of his likeness.

The historical record of the life and legacy of Lewis is still being discovered and written. While the date and location of her death are still debated, her legacy is unquestionable.

Kevin Trimell Jones is founder and lead curator for the Black LGBT Archivists Society of Philadelphia. He is a behavior researcher at University of Pennsylvania, has served as a trainer for the Gay Men's Health Leadership Academy and is a founder of the Black Gay Men's Leadership Council. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan, and graduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the University of Pennsylvania.

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Strengthens Educational Programs

LGBT educational focused activities by the Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce are critical as the community continues to work with allies and businesses. Education and Programs Committee chair Debbie Gable has been leading the effort with quite a few success stories and upcoming activities planned for this year.

GSA Leadership Summit

Past educational events included chamber participation in The LGBT Community Center partnership with Planned Parenthood of Central PA and Dickinson College to host the GSA Leadership Summit held February 24-25 at Dickinson College. The two-day event focused on both high school students, college students and faculty . Feedback about the chamber workshop was "It's all about connections."

Comments included: 'It was great to practice networking - and I made some connections with people from other GSAs!' and 'I enjoyed hearing tips from the adults who have experience working.'

Fear of Failure

Myles Miller, CEO & Founder, LEADUP & Learning Breaks, has presented a 'Fear of Failure' workshop which focused on overcoming fears in the workplace and everyday life.

Lancaster Arts Hotel

Heidi Duckworth, Financial Advisor with the Gibson Luckenbill Group of RBC Wealth Management and Sandra Edwards Gray, Attorney and Partner with Pyfer Partners: Pyfer, Straub, Gray & Farhat, P.C, gave an outstanding presentation on Wealth Management Planning for Unmarried Couples at the Lancaster Arts Hotel, in Lancaster. The presentation taught the community about the serious tax, social security, disability, and legal consequences that result from failing to plan to care for each other.

Contact Gable

Gable is planning a panel of speakers to meet with our regional youth programs. Chamber members who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender who are interested in volunteering for the panel can contact Debbie Gable at dgable@cpglcc.org for more information and meeting dates. This is a wonderful opportunity to share life experiences with high school and college aged youth who are involved in Common Roads, a program of the LGBT Community Center and THE CURVE, a program of Planned Parenthood of Central PA. The Committee is exploring additional topics such as social media, business development, and non-profit organizational development.

Keystone Conference

A record number of Chamber members and partners attended the Dinner Dance that was the grand finale of TransCentral's Keystone Conference on March 31. This conference is a brilliant model of education and organization in the LGBT community.

Upcoming

Paper Lion Gallery

The Paper Lion Gallery will host another fabulous mixer at their amazing gallery in Lemoyne, co-sponsored by the Lemoyne Business Association. They are pleased to feature in their expanded space two on-house artists, David K and Martin Velez. Martin will be offering art classes this summer in different techniques.

Zynski Massage & Aromatherapy

June 12, Chamber newcomer Zynski Massage and Aromatherapy Center will host our mixer. With 18 years of massage therapy experience, the center also features soy candles with essential oils and unusual scents such as 'leather jacket'.

Pride

CPGLCC is gearing up for full participation in Pride: Lancaster in June and York and Harrisburg in July.

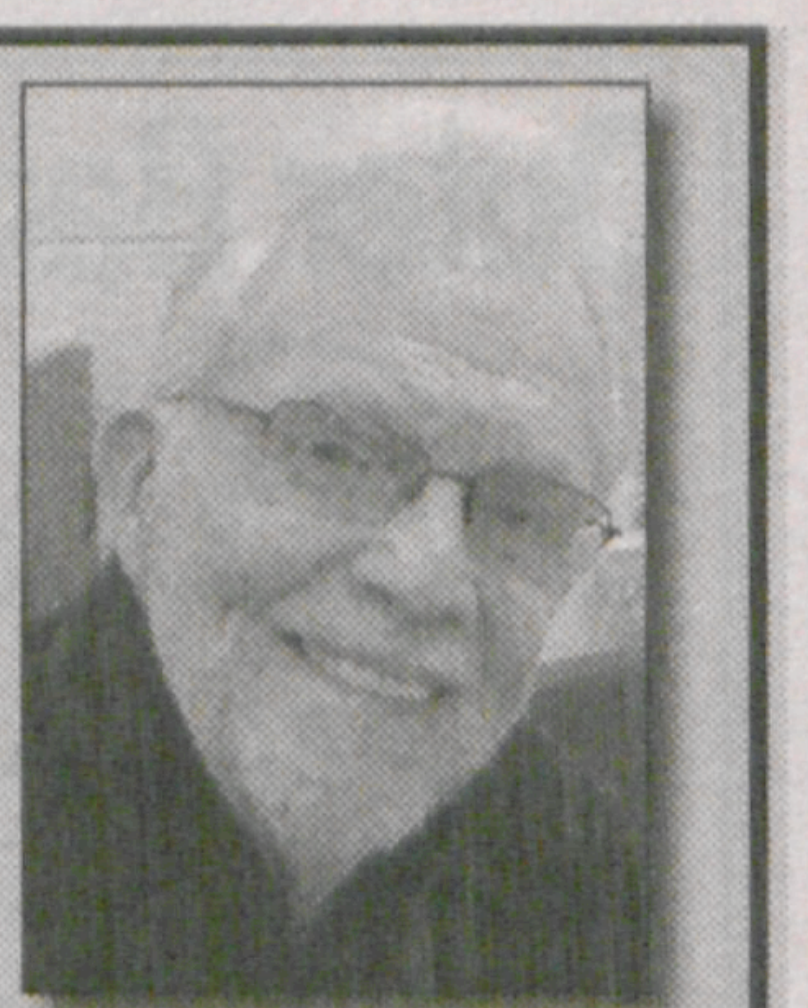
Remember: PLEASE register for events at the www.cpglcc.org or to host an event for the few remaining dates in 2012 - contact Seth Hamill at shamill@cpglcc.org.

Info: www.cpglcc.org

DON'T ASK.
JUST
.ning ME.

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons



Whose truth is it, anyway?

Pay attention. Think for yourself. Love is all you need.

Those three thoughts are what I begin all my classes with each semester. I tell the students that these principles underlie everything we will be doing over the next three months. Think for yourself—truly a radical idea, no? Talking about love - really? I must be one of those liberal professors you hear about from some of our politicians.

Rick Santorum is just one of many voices attacking higher education these days, but his sure gets a lot of attention. Sorry for beginning my column with the name of our former senator; I know Central Voice readers generally detest the things he stands for, and with good reason.

But Santorum's critique of college and university education in America is a good starting point for talking about what it is we professors do in our classes and why it is so important. According to Santorum, college is the first American institution that Satan attacked back in the day when he began undermining our country's foundations.

In a 2008 speech at Ave Maria University in Florida, Santorum said that Satan used "those great vices of pride, vanity and sensuality" to attack academia, where professors educate the leaders of our society. Professors are easy targets because we think we are smarter than everyone else, Santorum explained. Once academia fell, it was on to the mainline Protestant churches, followed by popular culture and then government. The result, of course, is the ongoing deterioration of all the values that made America great, bringing us to the sorry state we are in today.

Well, we certainly are in a lot of trouble today, but I don't see it the way Santorum does. He thinks the American family is going down the tubes because of the push for same-sex marriage, which is just one manifestation of the problems LGBTQ folks and their allies are causing in their push for full equality in American life. We have strayed from the values of our founding fathers, who knew the truth, Santorum says. College professors question truth and "pursue new truths"; they "deny the existence of truth and play with it."

Well, true - we do ask lots of questions, and we even question many of the values of our founding fathers. Let's see, among the "truths" we questioned were the ones that said slavery was tolerable, that women were inferior to men and therefore shouldn't be allowed to vote, and yes, that any sex outside of traditional marriage was wrong - hetero or otherwise.

Yes, we do question those truths and lots of others. We ask students to examine charges made by Rick Santorum, even, and see if they can accept what he says. After analyzing his "truths" they may accept them, but they may not. That's what thinking for yourself means.

You'll note that in that 2008 speech Santorum said Satan had successfully attacked the Protestant churches. But what about the Catholic Church, he asks. No, the country was founded on a Protestant Judeo-Christian ethic, and the Catholic Church had only "some influence" on things. He concludes that the mainline Protestant church "is gone from Christianity as I see it." Whew!

Santorum thinks the Catholic Church is the one true church, and he's entitled to that "truth." Of course Christians disagree mightily about what true Christianity is—it's a favorite pastime of Christians, arguing about truth. An old joke has it that there was a small town with three churches. As you entered town you saw The Church of Jesus Christ. In the center of town was The True Church of Jesus Christ, and on the other side of town was The Only True Church of Jesus Christ.

It's interesting that Santorum used the phrase "as I see it" in talking about mainline Protestantism, for he sounds just like the elite college professor he despises. When we question truth, we are simply proposing that we all see truth from different perspectives—that the safest thing one can say is, "Here is how I see it" as opposed to "This is the way it is."

We all have a worldview, a set of beliefs about life and the world we live in. We agree on much, but we disagree on much as well. After all, we have been raised in different kinds of families and had different life experiences. We read different things and meet different kinds of people. And we come at the great questions of the day from those worldviews; they influence everything we say and do.

You knew I would have to say something about love, didn't you. Love is all we need: If we don't speak the truth in love, we speak in vain. Emerson perhaps said it best. "The office of the scholar is to cheer, to raise and to guide men by showing them facts amidst appearances. … He is the world's eye. He is the world's heart. …. The world is his who can see through its pretension."

Sounds like a good education to me.

Trum Simmons is senior professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and adviser of The Fourth Estate, the Harrisburg campus student newspaper. He also advises HACC Allies, the LGBTQA student organization.

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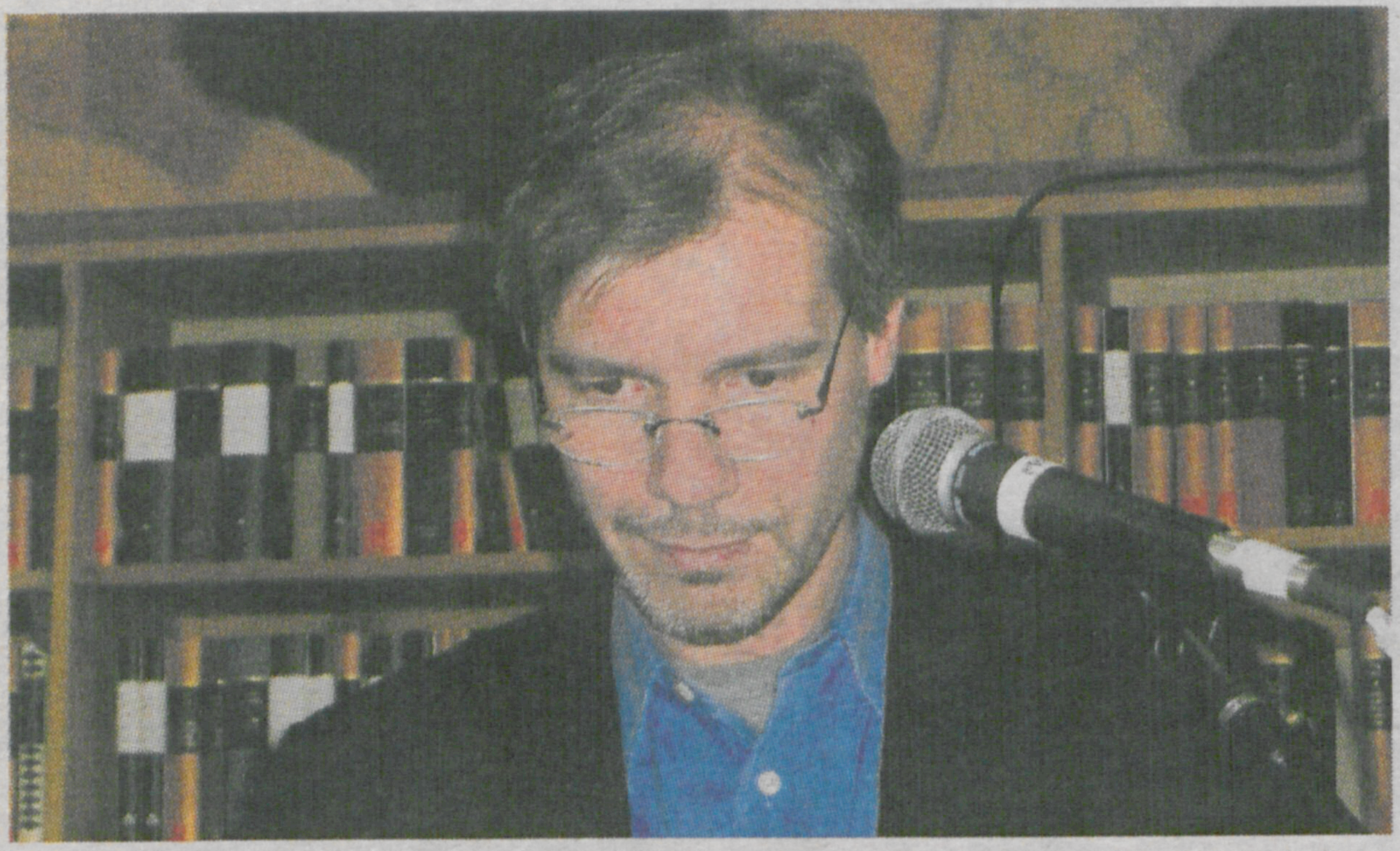
Gay Super PAC

With Super PACS tilting the political seesaw, LTBT groups are wondering if the gay community needs its own such muscled up political action committee. Most of the anti-gay groups have now officially been designated "hate groups" by the Southern Poverty Law Center. "The time has come to hand them major defeats so they no longer have the political credibility or support to continue with their unchecked hate. There is one clear political axiom and that is if an issue is not a winner it will not gain support," said one observer.

Community Center Hosts Program



In conjunction with the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Community Center Coalition, Professor Michael Long, Elizabethtown College, spoke to about 50 people recently at Midtown Scholar Bookstore about the life and times of gay, African-American activist Bayard Rustin. Rustin is credited with organizing the historic 1963 March on Washington addressed by Martin Luther King in which King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Commentary: From Russia Without Love

COMING OUT
SAINT-PETERSBURG LGBT-ORGANISATION

By Michael Peterelis
Central Voice San Francisco Correspondent

The horribly discriminatory and stigmatizing new anti-LGBT statute of St. Petersburg is a shameful blot against Russia's commitment to international human rights norms, and has been receiving proper attention from gay and straight Western news media outlets and bloggers.

For Central Voice readers, here is an English translation of the law as posted on Coming Out.

Adopted by the Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg on February 29, 2012

Article 1

To introduce into the Law of St. Petersburg on March 12, 2012, No. 273-70 "On administrative offenses in St. Petersburg" the following changes:

1. Add Articles 7_1 and 7_2 reading as follows:

Article 7_1. Public actions aimed at propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexualism, transgenderism amongst minors

Public actions aimed at propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexualism, transgenderism amongst minors incur an administrative fine for citizens in the amount of five thousand rubles; for officials -- fifty thousand rubles; for legal entities -- from two thousand fifty to five hundred thousand rubles.

Note: *As public actions at propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexualism, transgenderism amongst minors in this article should be understood activities on purposeful and uncontrolled dissemination of information in a publicly accessible way that can be harmful to the health, moral and spiritual development of minors, including forming in their mind a distorted perception of social equality of traditional and nontraditional marital relationships.*

Article 7_2. Public actions aimed at propaganda of pedophilia

Public actions aimed propaganda of pedophilia amongst minors incur an administrative fine for citizens in the amount of five thousand rubles; for officials -- fifty thousand rubles; for legal entities -- from five hundred thousand to one million rubles.

Note: *As public actions aimed at propaganda of pedophilia amongst minors in this article should be understood activities on purposeful and uncontrolled dissemination of information in a publicly accessible way aimed at forming in the society a distorted perception of the consistency with the social norms of intimate relationships between adults and minors.*

Article 2

The law of St. Petersburg takes effect 10 days after the day of its official publication.

Submitted by Georgy Sergeyevich Poltavchenko, Governor of St. Petersburg
Saint Petersburg, Russia, March 7, 2012

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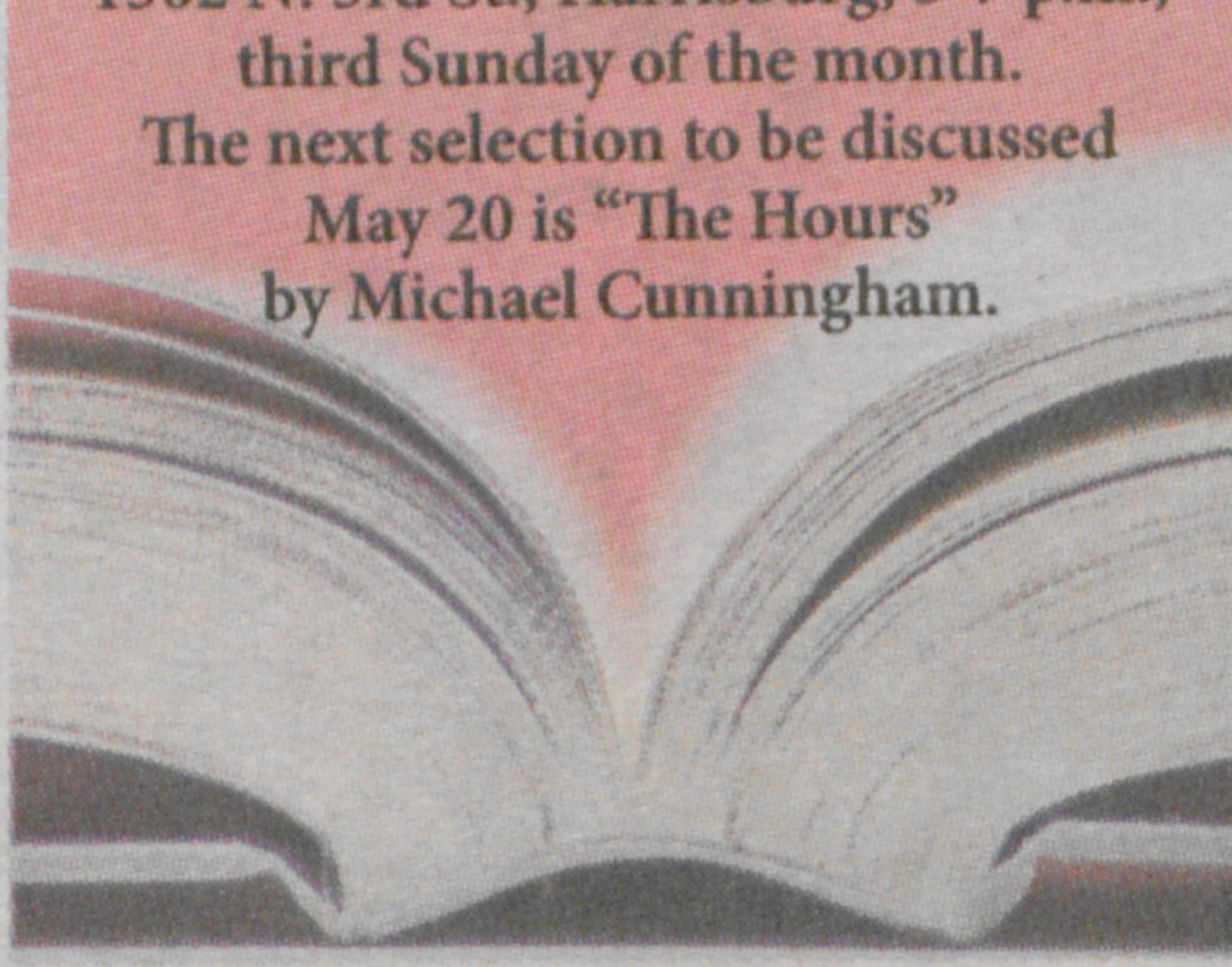
Book Club Continues

The LGBT Book Club continues at The Midtown Scholar Book Store, 1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, 5-7 p.m., third Sunday of the month. The next selection to be discussed May 20 is "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham.



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